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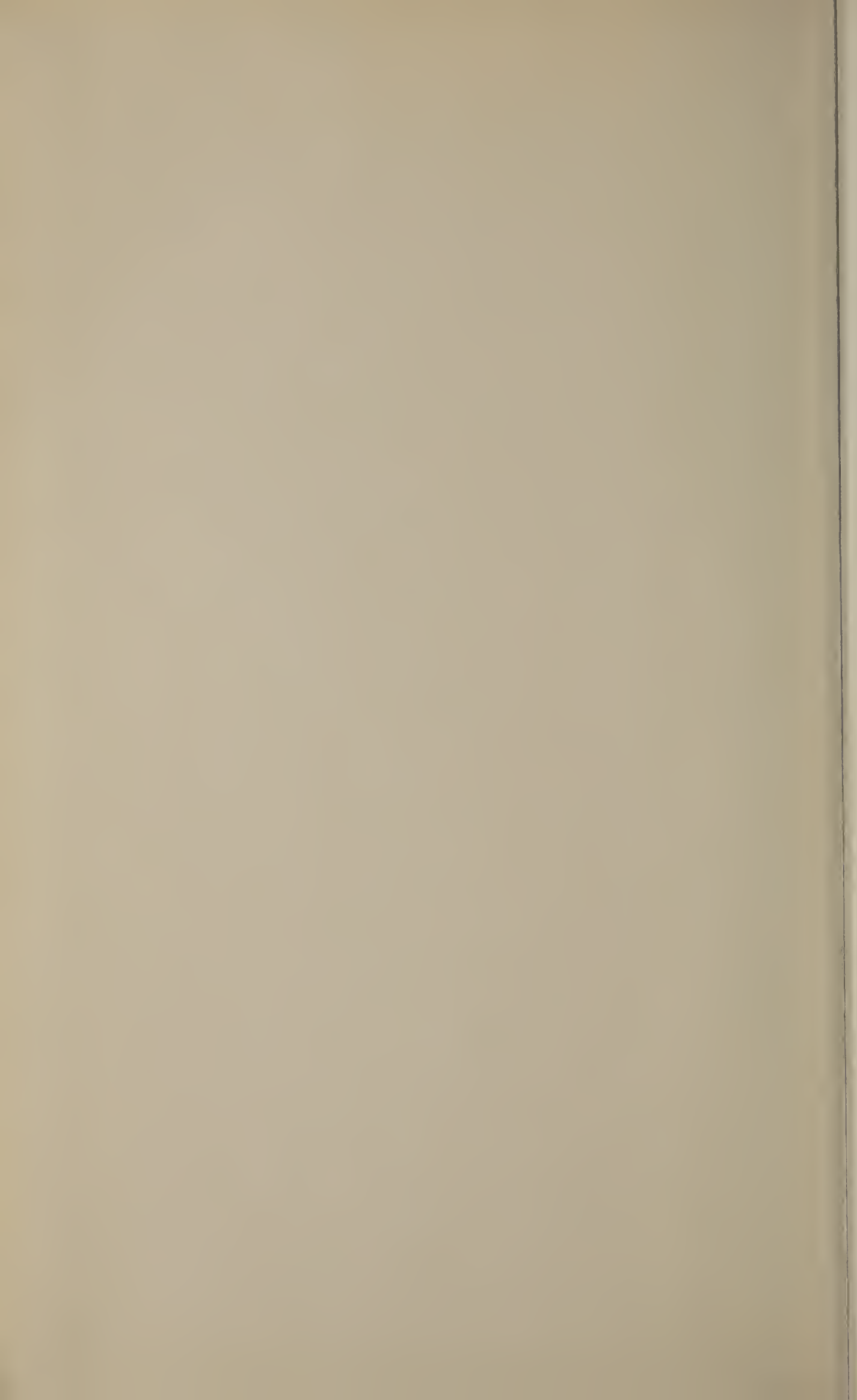
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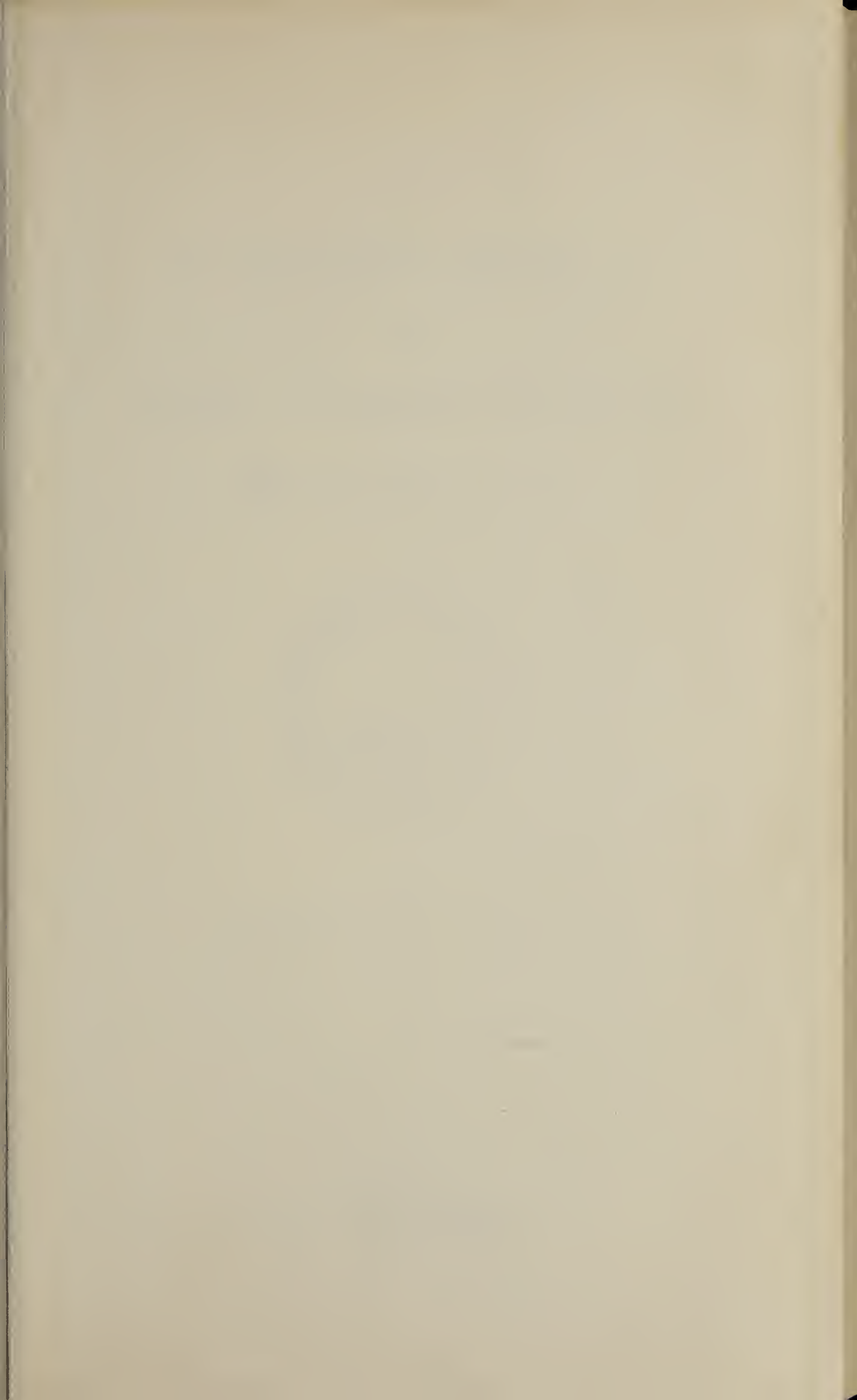
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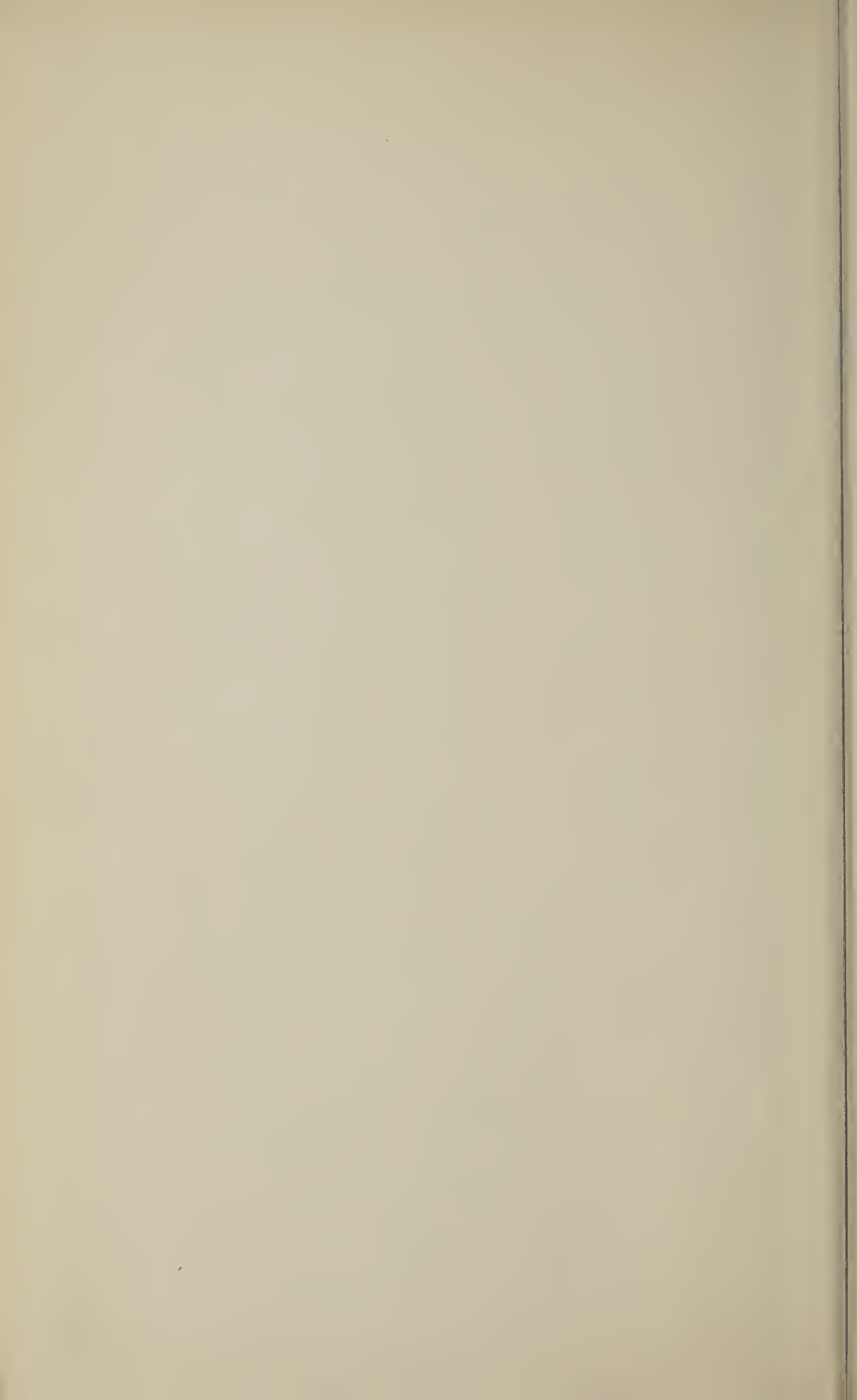


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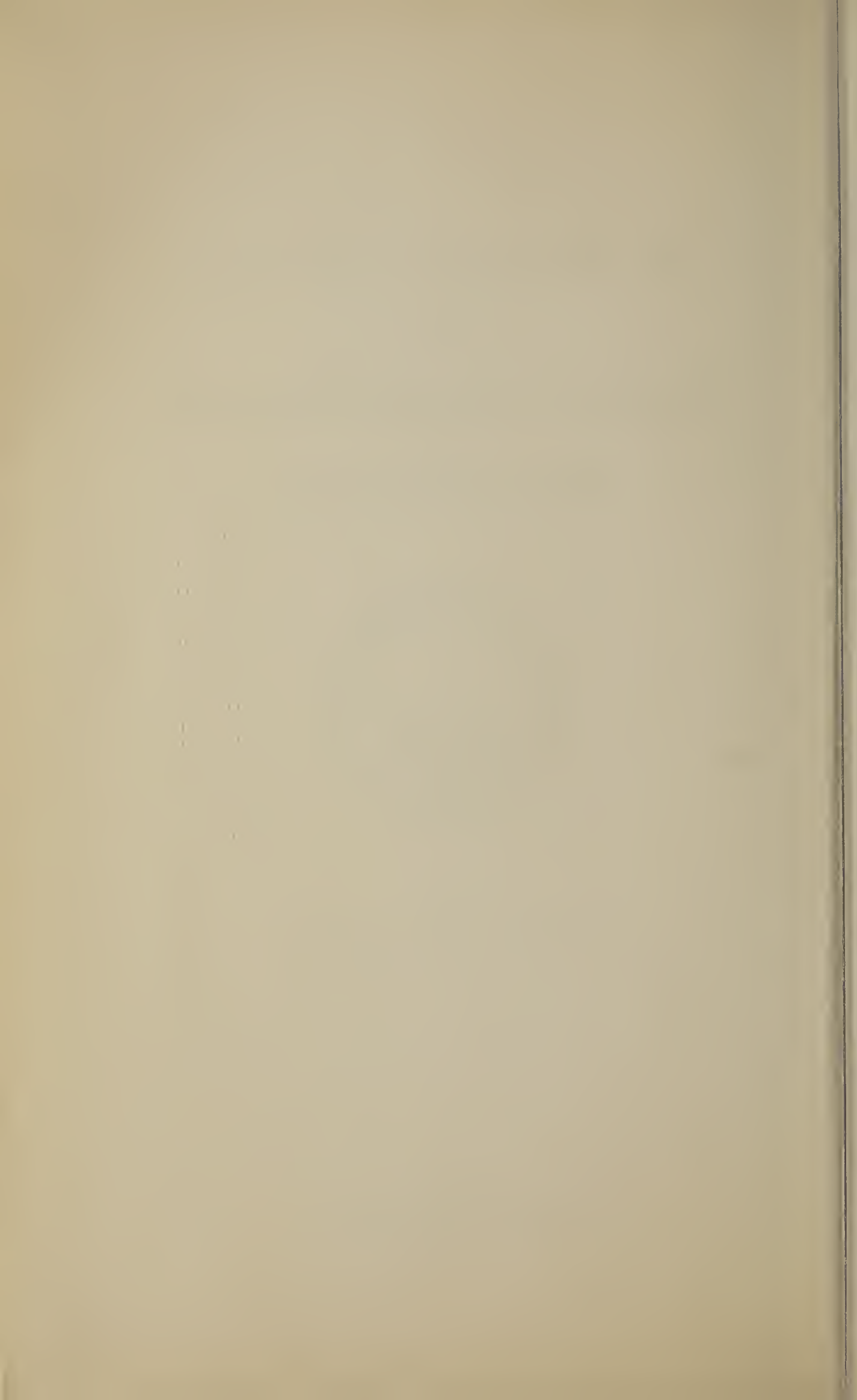
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A Narrative History  
OF  
South Scituate-Norwell  
Massachusetts



BY  
JOSEPH FOSTER MERRITT

PRINTED BY  
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1938



1225257

**Dedicated**

To Dr. Tenney L. Davis

In grateful appreciation of his  
interest and helpful suggestions  
along the way.



1636 - 1938  
as an  
American Community  
1849 - 1938  
as a separate town

PUBLISHED JOINTLY  
BY  
FRANK S. ALGER  
AND  
JOSEPH F. MERRITT



## INTRODUCTION

A history of this town cannot help but include many references to Scituate, the mother town, also to Hanover and other contiguous towns, as in some sections the boundary lines seem almost imaginary.

The author is indebted to Rev. Samuel Deane, whose History of Scituate, published in 1831, must necessarily be the foundation for any later historical work on either Scituate or South Scituate. In like manner, Dr. L. Vernon Briggs' History of Shipbuilding on North River, (1889) so fully covers that important industry of the early days, that it is only necessary to give this great business a cursory mention in this work.

Mrs. Mary L. F. Power has described the religious societies in such minute detail, particularly the history of the "Friends" or "Quakers," that extended notices are not needed here.

Acknowledgements are due George C. Turner for many facts, and in some cases, permission to use entire articles. Likewise to the late Horace T. Fogg, the late James H. Pinkham, (at one time editor of the old South Scituate News) Frank S. Alger, editor of the Hanover Branch and Norwell Advertiser, to William N. Parker, manager of the Standard printing plant, Rockland, and to many others.

Much material and some cuts have been taken from "Anecdotes of the North River and South Shore," and in some cases, whole chapters have been re-printed. The author makes no apology for so doing, as many of the articles of the earlier book were written with the purpose of permanent record in a book of this kind.

No attempt has been made to give detailed genealogies and family histories in this volume, but the hope is cher-

## INTRODUCTION

ished in some quarters, especially by the members of the Historical society, that time will bring another volume of this work.

The author of this narrative history of his native town, has endeavored to write, imperfectly though it may be, so that the younger generation may get a picture of the old town as it was in by-gone days. More than a third of a century spent as custodian of the Norwell-South Scituate records has been of great help in the undertaking.

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CHAPTER I  
EARLY SETTLEMENT  
GENERAL RETROSPECTIONS

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THE story of South Scituate and Norwell in early times must necessarily be that of Scituate as well, for the Town of Scituate included, for many years, what is now the Towns of Norwell, Hanover, the "Two Mile" section of Marshfield and a bit of Rockland.

The first white people came to town a little before 1628, but the town of Scituate was not incorporated until 1636.

They came in two ways, some from the settlements in and around Boston and some up the coast from the Pilgrim settlement at Plymouth, as the people of that town began to branch out and occupy the territory comprising Kingston, Duxbury, Marshfield and to the south, the towns of Barnstable county.

A large company came in 1633, many of them being from Kent County, England. Timothy Hatherly and the Conihasset Partners had a large grant of land which they controlled for some years, but it was finally incorporated in the town of Scituate.

In a very short time the settlers began to move back into the interior, into what is now Norwell, and gradually the country along the North River Valley was pretty generally settled. For many years the river was the natural highway; there were no roads, only Indian paths, and it was much easier to get around in small boats and canoes, than it was to cut roads. Added to this, the marsh lands were greatly prized for the grass that furnished forage for cattle and horses the settlers were able to keep.

One of the early settlers in Norwell, was Cornet Robert Stetson, who came up the river and settled in the southerly part of the town. He was a very prominent man in the military and civil life of those times, builder and owner of two mills, a cornet of horse (as the old English

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE—NORWELL

expression goes) in other words, commanding officer of a mounted troop, and a high official in the Plymouth Colony. A good portion of the older families of the town can trace their descent from him. His farm is now owned by the Stetson Kindred, and is used as a "Shrine" where each year the Stetsons from all over the country gather to honor the memory of their celebrated ancestor.

Using the river as the settlers did for transportation, it is quite natural that shipbuilding should follow. The forests were filled with excellent ship timber and from almost the first, this industry sprang up that was destined to make the North River, a stream not over eighteen miles long and with an average width above Little's Bridge of only about one hundred feet, known all over the world. From the North River Bridge, at Hanover to White's Ferry near the mouth, wherever suitable locations were to be found, shipyards were established. Over one thousand vessels were recorded as having been built here and that does not include the whole number. Countless small vessels were built at other than the regular yards and the records of many were not kept.

Some of the most well known yards were located within the borders of Norwell. The "Block House" near Harry Henderson's, The Chittenden at Mr. Mills', the "Wanton," later the Foster and Delano yards near Dr. Bailey's, The Copeland and Ford yard, formerly the Palmer and Church yard, off Stetson Road. In these yards the James, Torreys, Randalls, Southers, Chittendens, Wantons, Delanos, Fosters, Clapps, Cudworths, Barstows, Waterman, Briggs, Merritts and others carried on the business up to the middle of the last century.

Norwell cannot claim the honor of building the Columbia, the famous vessel to explore the Columbia River in Oregon and the first American vessel to carry the Flag into an English Port, after the Revolution. She was built just over the line in old Scituate at Hobart's Landing yard by James Briggs, but the builder resided in this part of the town.



## EARLY SETTLEMENT

The tea ship *Beaver* was built by Ichabod Thomas at Pembroke, but the largest ship ever built on the river can be credited to Norwell, built by William Delano at the Wanton Yard, the Mount Vernon, in 1812, nearly five hundred tons. Also the last vessel to be built by the old time builders, the *Helen M. Foster*, in 1871, at Chittenden yard.

It must be understood that the vessels built here were necessarily limited in size on account of the difficulty in getting them out of the river, but it should also be remembered that at that time, a vessel of five hundred tons was a good sized ship.

Much of the wealth and early prosperity of the town was from the products of its shipyards, and men went from here to the larger yards at East Boston, Medford, New Bedford and the Charlestown Navy Yard.

There are three churches in town. The Unitarian on the "Hill," the Universalist at Assinippi and the Methodist at Church Hill, near the Hanover line. Just back of the latter church, on the hill, is the site of the first Episcopal church in Scituate territory, but it was removed to Hanover in 1811.

In the early days there were many Friends or Quakers here, their church being located just over the line in Scituate, on the land now owned by Stephen Webster.

One of their most active and prominent members, Edward Wanton, lived, during his lifetime, at what is now Dr. Bailey's home on River Street, and a cemetery known as the "Old Quaker Cemetery" was located on a knoll near the bank of the river where the early generations of these people were buried.

Some of the Wantons moved to Rhode Island and became very prominent in political life. Gradually the society died out and its members joined other societies, the church building being moved to Pembroke about 1706, part of the way by gundalow, so tradition says. The Catholic Church is in the old town of Scituate and mem-

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

bers of that faith from the west and south parts of town are connected with Rockland and Hanover.

Up to the middle of the last century the inhabitants of the town were practically all descendants of the first settlers from England. The old records speak of two families from Sweden. One of those apparently left no posterity here, but the Bowkers were very active and numerous up to seventy-five years ago, many families being located on Main and Bowker Streets. There are some bearing the name here now.

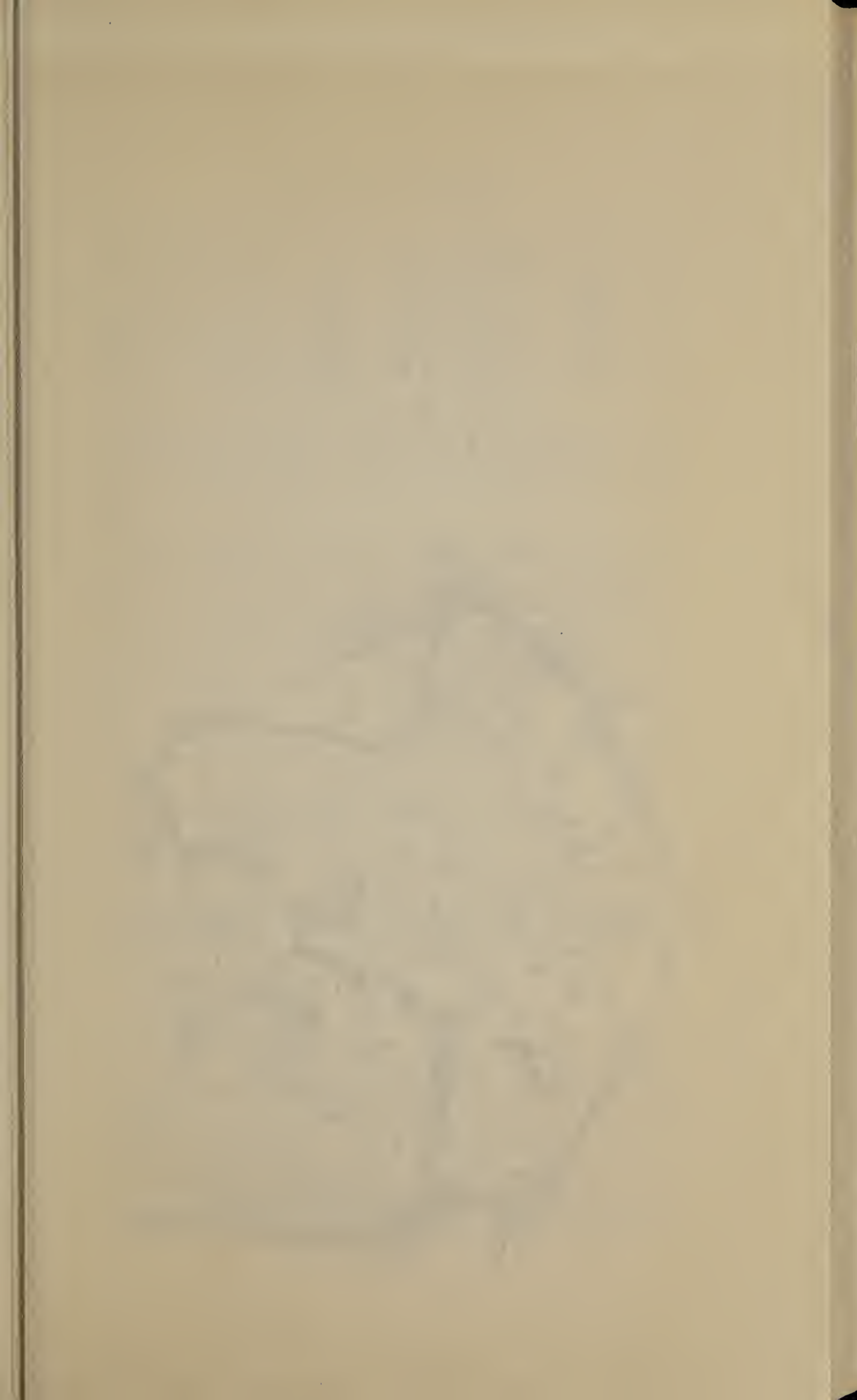
About the year 1850 several Irish families came into town and in the '80's a number of families from England settled in the south part of town. There was one Portuguese family here in the '60's. One Danish in the '50's.

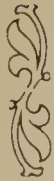
In the last few years Scotch, French, German, Danish, and Jewish people have come in and a goodly number of Swedish, Norwegian, Italian and Polish families have bought up many of the old farms. Since the coming of the automobile, business and professional people from Boston and the suburbs have bought places and are commuting.

People from the Canadian Provinces have been coming into town for years.

The town now has a cosmopolitan population.

One of the occupations of early days was fishing. Practically a hundred vessels were fitted out every year from Hingham, Cohasset and Scituate harbors to fish for mackerel on George's Bank and for cod at the Grand Banks. Some of these vessels were owned by South Scituate people and there were at one time very few families in the easterly part of the town who did not own a few shares in a fishing vessel or who did not have some member make one or two cruises during the season. Young men in those days thought nothing of walking to Cohasset or Scituate to join a cruise. There was always fishing on the river before the storm of 1898, and the early settlers depended, to a great extent, on the herring which they caught in seines and cured for winter use.





WALLING MAP

Made by Henry F. Walling,  
C. E., in 1857

(Map Photographed by  
Jared Gardner)





## EARLY SETTLEMENT

In the fall, after the fishing season was over, some of these vessels went to the South for supplies of corn and to the West Indies to trade for molasses and sugar. Up to about 1850 regular trading packets ran up the river carrying supplies and wood between the river towns and Boston. Regular trips were also made to Provincetown and other towns on the coast.

There are few manufacturing plants of any kind left, excepting the Accord Chemical Co's. establishment, the Sylvester tack works, carried on in early days by the Talbots and Salmonds and the Lincoln saw mill at Mt. Blue.

There were in operation forty years ago, several saw mills, box and trunk factories, and one plane factory. The John H. Jones trunk factory on Jones' Hill, the Grose factory on Prospect street and the David Torrey factory on River Street. Two good sized shoe shops, that of G. W. H. Litchfield at Mt. Blue and Charles Grose's at Ridge Hill, were running. Besides these there were several smaller shops and in early days little shops where one or two men made boots and shoes by hand work, were scattered all over town.

The Church, Turner, Torrey, Hackett, Richardson, and Merritt saw mills of other days, all water mills that ran day and night during the late winter and spring when water was plentiful, are things of the past, and the old Jacobs mill at Assinippi, a land-mark for two hundred years, with its curious up and down saw, was destroyed by fire a few years ago.

### Indians

There were very few Indians within the limits of this town at the time of settlement; just a few families of Mattakeesetts. A small number were still living in the Beechwood section of Scituate at the time of the Revolution. One of them, Comsitt, was a soldier in the Continental army. Some married colored people and their descendants are still living in this vicinity. Symons, one of the last of the tribe, had his hut or wigwam on Bowker

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

street, the west side of Bowker Hill being known as Symon's hill to this day.

The Indian title to the land comprising Scituate, South Scituate and "Two Mile" was purchased by deed from Josias Wampatuck, chief of the Mattakeesetts in 1656, confirming a former agreement with the same chief.

### Indian War

In King Philip's war of 1676, a war party of Narragansetts and Nipmuks made a raid in this section of the country. They came by way of Hingham into Norwell and Hanover probably following very closely what is now Route 3 on Washington street down to Cornet Stetson's mill which was located on the Third Herring Brook at the junction of Tiffany Road, Norwell and East Street, Hanover. They burned this mill and continued down what is now River street to the "Block House" near the Harry Henderson place. This they attacked, but were repulsed. John James, who owned the adjoining land was killed the next day after the mill fight. They crossed over what is now the Arthur Power farm to Parker and Cross streets, burned several houses in South Scituate and continued down to the Block House at Greenbush pond, burning houses along the way.

### French and Indian War 1754

Probably sixty men served from Scituate in the French and Indian War and many saw much hard service. Small-pox broke out in the army and some from this town died of that disease.

### Acadians

When the Acadian exiles were distributed among the coast towns in 1756, by Col. John Winslow's troops, some who were apportioned to the town of Scituate were placed in charge of Joseph Clapp whose farm was located off Mt. Blue Street, here in Norwell, back in the woods near Black Pond on what was later known as the "Cuff Granderson" place, named for an old negro who, just after the Revolution, settled there. Others lived at what is known as

## EARLY SETTLEMENT

"Cricket Hole" just over the line between Church Hill Village and Hanover. There is no record that they were here very long or left descendants.

### The Revolution

A good number of the men who served in the Revolution from the Town of Scituate were from this part of the town. Col. John Jacobs, Col. John Clapp, Major Nathaniel Winslow, Major William Turner, Capt. Jonathan Turner, Capt. Peter Sears, Capt. Joshua Jacobs, Capt. Amos Turner, and Lemuel Cushing, surgeon, were among the commissioned officers.

Of the four hundred men who were listed from Scituate, some only served a short time; others were in the regular Continental Army. Many saw service in New York state.

### War of 1812

The militia from this part of the town was called to duty at Scituate Harbor when the British vessel, the Bulwark, 74 guns, landed men and burned several vessels in the harbor, and at the wharves. Col. John Barstow's regiment was on duty for some time.

There were no men from this town in the Mexican war. John Ryan was the only Norwell man in the Spanish war.

### Prominent Men

Rev. Samuel Deane, the author of Deane's History of Scituate was a minister here from 1810 to his death in 1833. His history has been a monument to his memory.

Rev. Samuel J. May, a celebrated anti-slavery and temperance advocate of national fame, was here for six years, leaving in 1843. He organized his famous cold water army among the school children at that time, and was a member of the school committee.

Benjamin F. Delano and his brother Edward H. Delano, both celebrated Naval Constructors, were natives of this town. Benjamin was Chief Constructor at Brooklyn N. Y., in Civil war days and was also stationed at Portsmouth, N. H. Edward was at the Pensacola and the



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Charlestown yards. While there, they built and remodeled many of the famous war vessels. Samuel Hart another celebrated constructor was a resident here at the time of his death.

Waldo Turner of Weymouth, past Commander of Massachusetts G. A. R. was a native of South Scituate.

Rev. William P. Tilden, preacher and teacher, was an honored son of South Scituate in the last century. His autobiography is a historical treasure and his portrait hangs in the Unitarian Building, 25 Beacon Street, Boston.

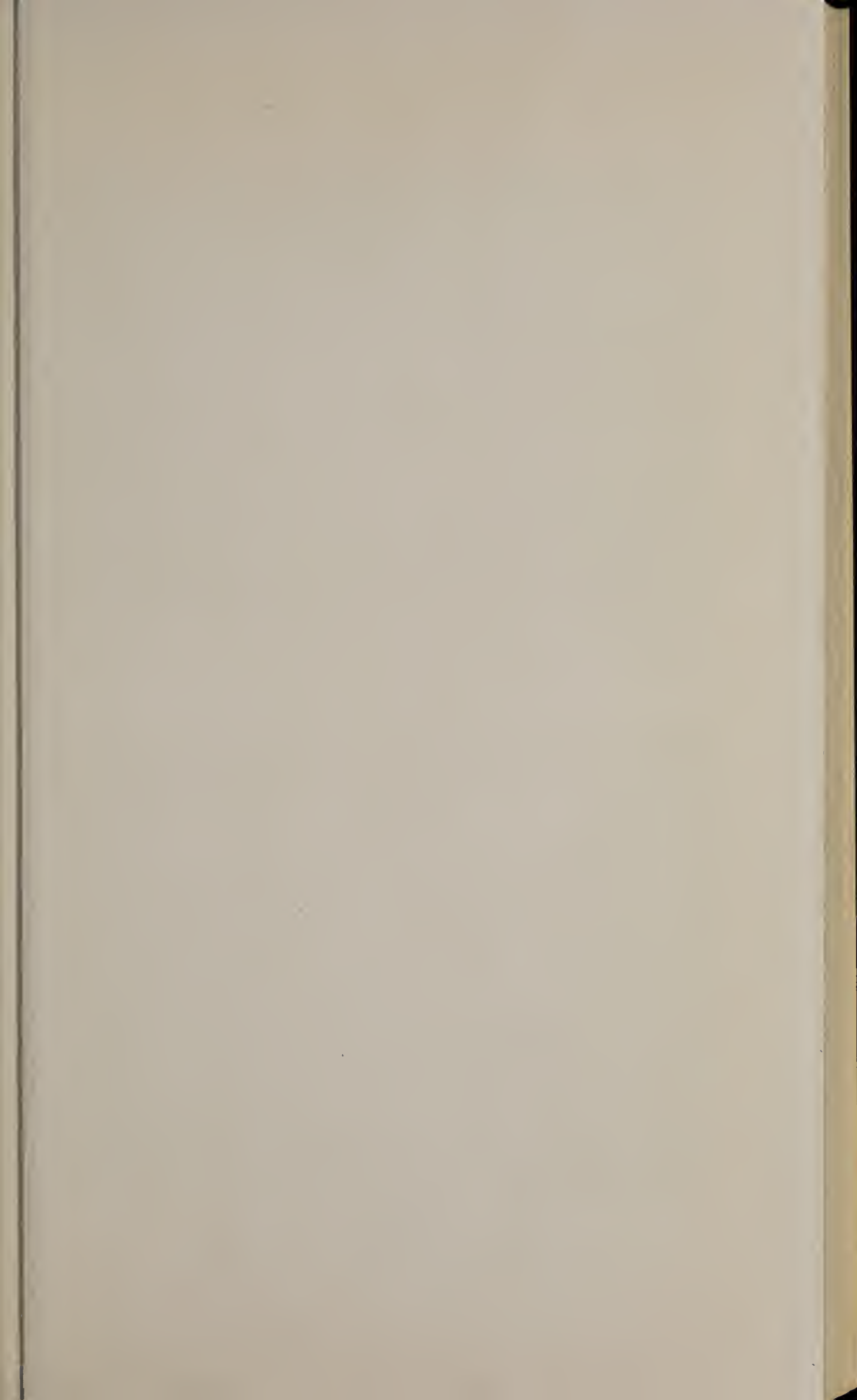
There have been several attempts in the past fifty years to get a railroad through the town; one plan was to extend the Hanover Branch, another known as the Plymouth County Railroad, was to run from Marshfield through the town to Weymouth, and the last plan of about twenty-five years ago was to connect the terminals at Greenbush and Hanover. The town voted thirty thousand dollars toward this and for a time it seemed almost certain that the road would be built.

What is now the Greenbush station of the N. Y., N. H. and H. R. R. was at first called the South Scituate station of the old Duxbury and Cohasset Railroad when that road was built in 1872.

At the time the Hanover and Norwell Street Railway came to Assinippi it also ran from North Hanover through High and Washington street, past the Ridge Hill Grove to Hingham and Nantasket. People of an earlier generation look back to the trips to the beach, Brockton and Providence with much pleasure. It was a great disappointment to the people living on the "Hill," that the road was not continued from Assinippi to Scituate Harbor as they hoped.

Customs, the manner of living and the general appearance of this town were quite different eighty-nine years ago than they are today. There were no tar or cement roads, no automobiles, and the gravel roads were always dusty in summer and very muddy in spring. Even as late as twenty-five years ago, there were times, when the frost







NORWELL CENTER SCENE  
First Church and Kent Memorial House.  
(Cut from photograph by Col. Charles W. Furlong. Cut copyrighted,  
and loaned by Scituate Historical Society)



DELANO MANSION, DELANO HILL  
Described by Inez Haynes Irwin, in these words: "Like a stately lady,  
she sits gazing serenely over globular box-bushes and an exquisite,  
carved-ivory fence, to the blue reaches of the distance."  
(Cut copyrighted and loaned by Scituate Historical Society)

## EARLY SETTLEMENT

came out, that it was almost impossible to go to Rockland by auto. In the early days along all the roadways there were either fences or stone walls and all gates were kept closed and bars were always kept up. Ox and horse drawn teams did all of the carting. The farmers carried their produce to the Boston markets with horses, but around the farms and for carting wood and heavy lumber, oxen were generally used. It was no uncommon sight in late summer to see heavy loads of salt marsh hay, drawn by two yokes of oxen with a horse on ahead for a leader, slowly crawling along the way from the salt meadows at Scituate up to the farms at Assinippi. Large droves of cattle, sheep and hogs were driven through here from Brighton down to the Cape towns, the drovers trading along the way with the farmers.

People traveled by stage coach and the line of stages from Plymouth and the "Cape" towns came through Washington street, now "Route 3," daily, stopping at the "Old Half Way House" at the junction of High and Washington Streets to change horses and allow the passengers to eat. Other lines ran up from Marshfield to Cohasset and still others to Hingham, where the passengers took the steamboat in summer, and the train in winter, for Boston.

Later the old thoroughbrace Concord coaches were supplanted by barges and trips to the beaches, fairs and other jollifications were made in these vehicles.

The young men of those days usually tried to keep a nice horse and buggy (or chaise) in which they took as much pride and on which they bestowed as much care as the young men of today do on their automobiles. There was more social life in town then than there is today. Instead of being able to take an auto and go long distances to the movies and all sorts of entertainments, the people were compelled to depend on their own resources and consequently amateur dramatic entertainments, sociables, fairs and dancing parties were much better patronized than now. Professional entertainers, also visit-



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

ed the town regularly and the advent of such men as William T. Brown, "Comical Brown," Yankee Glunn and Edward W. Emerson, was looked forward to by the young people, and also by their elders, for weeks.

Lectures (without stereopticons) were very much in vogue and panoramas, large pictures on rolls with a lecturer to describe the scenes, while an assistant slowly wound the rolls, entertained and instructed appreciative audiences.

In 1673 the remaining swamp lands of Scituate were apportioned to the settlers in lots of two acres to a person. A man receiving one of these allotments was obliged to clear the land. This was done, so the records say, to prevent cattle from getting mired and also to break up the haunts of wolves and other wild animals. Dead Swamp, Valley Swamp, Hoop Pole Swamp are within the limits of Norwell, and George Moore's is partially so.

It was the custom, in early days, to allow the settlers to graze their cattle and horses on the common lands and the old record books have a number of pages of the names of those having this right together with the ear marks and brands of each person.

Two hundred years later this custom was followed on the great cattle ranges of the "West," and each owner was obliged to register his brand at the county seat.

The town hall was formerly located where the Soldiers Monument now stands on the Common at the "Hill". This location was a bone of contention between the people of the East and West ends of the town from the time it was placed there in 1850.

In 1876 there was a vote passed to have a new town hall in the center of the town to be so constructed as to accommodate a high school. \$6500 was appropriated for this purpose. This vote was rescinded at a later meeting. In 1884 the old hall was burned and a hall was built near the center of the town.

In 1888 the high school was established and located





"THE MOWER"

Photographic Study by Jared Gardner, made on his home place on Pine Street, Norwell. This picture has been published in *Country Life in America*, in the *Capper's Weeklies*, and in the *Youth's Companion*.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT

in the District No. 2 school house. Edward J. Cox was the first principal. For a time there was only one assistant. In 1896 the school was moved to the new town hall building and the teaching force was gradually increased. A high school building was attached to it in 1922. This was burned in December 20, 1935, and was replaced by a new building during 1936 and 1937.

In old times school houses were very small and only one story high, one room with two little cloak rooms. Later larger ones were built and about forty-five years ago second stories were added to two of these to accommodate grammar schools. The buildings at Districts No. 1 and No. 5 are still used for the primary grades.

There are still many fine old colonial houses in town, many others have been destroyed. The Cape Cod cottage type is well represented. Some of the houses have a very interesting history and hark back two hundred years and more. Few are nationally famous like some of the Massachusetts houses but their story and the story of the generations that lived in them is that of an industrious, thrifty and intelligent people.





## CHAPTER II

# DIVISION OF THE TOWN

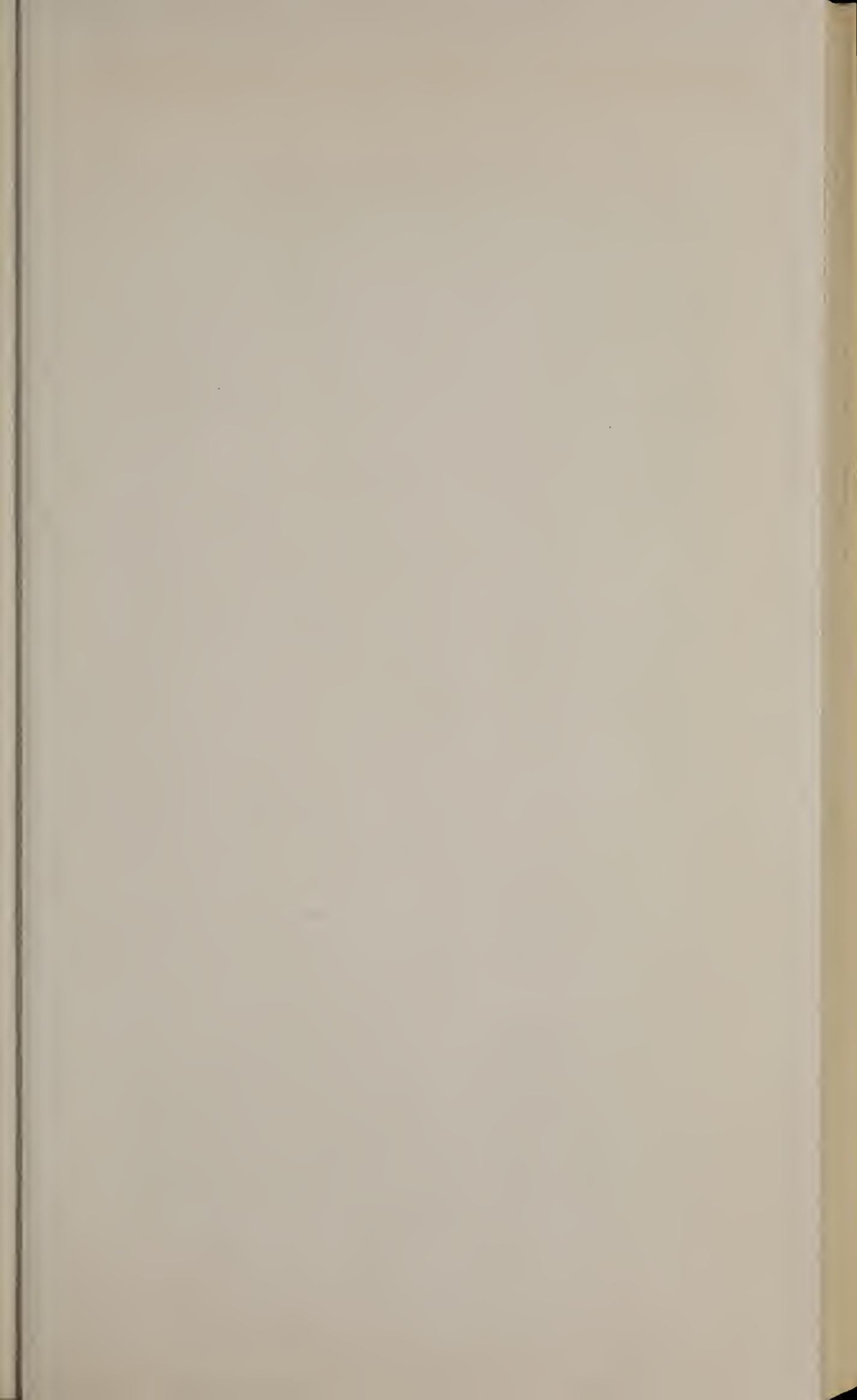
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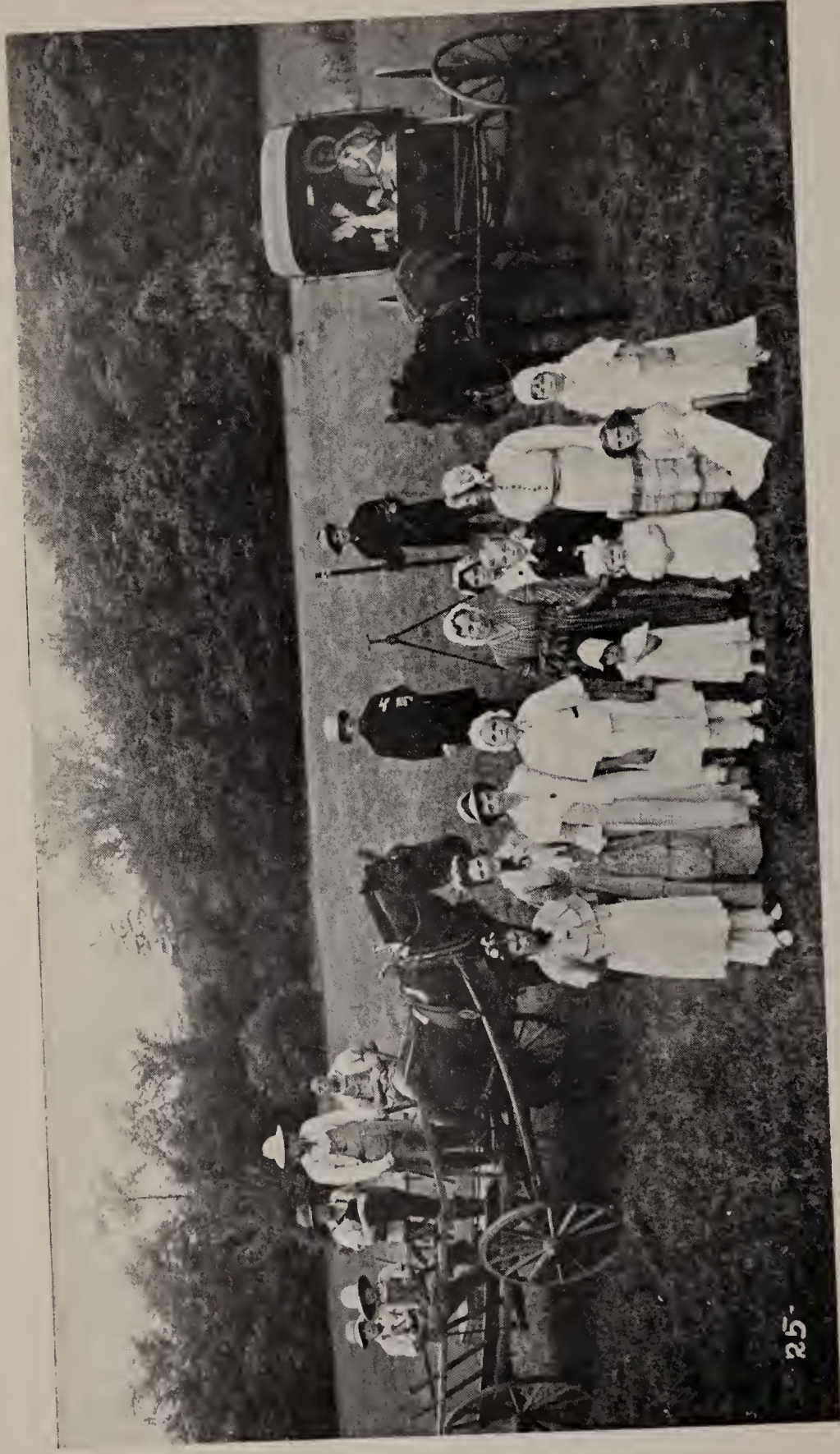
ABOUT the year 1847 the people living in the westerly part of the Town of Scituate became obsessed with the idea that it would be to their advantage to have the town divided that they might become a separate town. Like most of the towns in this section, the original township covered a large extent of territory. Portions of this were lost at various times as the "Two-Mile" in Marshfield, a little on the Abington line and much more was lost when the Town of Hanover was incorporated in 1727, but there were still over twenty thousand acres, and the thickly settled parts of the two sections being quite widely separated the people along the shore were content to have the people in the inland territory have their wish. The interests of the two parts were dissimilar and the westenders usually held more than their share of the offices. They, on their part, with their bank, their shipyards along the river, their well kept and thrifty farms and heavy pine forests, a source of taxable income, rather looked askance at the long line of barren beach and waste land which they were very glad to be rid of. They could not know that in less than fifty years the expression that "God made only a certain amount of sea shore" would be a common saying and that shore land would be measured in feet and not in acres as their fathers were wont to measure it, also that it would yield revenue from taxation far in excess of what anybody could possibly dream.

This is the reason, that, at the annual meeting in 1848 it was voted, very amicably, to separate and a committee was chosen to carry the vote into effect by arranging the bounds and petitioning the Legislature.

The act incorporating the new town of South Scituate was signed by Governor George N. Briggs, February 15,







RUNNING THE LINE 1849  
Pageant scene at town line near Sherman's Corner, Sept. 2, 1936.  
(Photograph by Ace Photo Service, Boston)

## DIVISION OF THE TOWN

1849, and attested by W. B. Calhoun, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

In accordance with section five of the Act, Ebenezer T. Fogg, a Justice of the Peace residing in South Scituate, issued a warrant to Nathaniel Clapp, one of the inhabitants, to notify and warn all the inhabitants qualified to vote in town affairs to meet at the South Parish meeting house, Monday the 5th day of March, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon to choose a clerk and all necessary officers. This was done, Anson Robbins being chosen Moderator and James Southworth, Clerk pro tem.

The new town of South Scituate started on its way with the following board of officers:

Clerk, James Southworth; Selectmen, assessors and overseers of poor, Ebenezer T. Fogg, Samuel Tolman, Loring Jacobs, Samuel A. Turner and Abial Turner were added to the above gentlemen on the board of overseers of poor; constables, Nathaniel Clapp, Stephen Bartlett; field drivers, Charles H. Farrow, Charles Whiting, Nathaniel Brooks and Ephraim Stetson; pound keeper, John Corthell; school committee, Rev. Caleb Stetson, Lemuel Waterman, Perez Turner, 2nd; highway surveyors, Rufus Farrow, Piam Jacobs, Michael Jacobs, Daniel Damon, Nathaniel Clapp, Charles Stockbridge, Paul Clapp, Elijah Brooks, Joseph P. Litchfield, Alfred Litchfield, Henry Merritt, Melsar Hatch, Elijah Cudworth, Samuel Foster, Nathaniel Turner, William Winslow, John Gardner, William Sylvester 2nd, Philip Curtis, Cyrus Stoddard.

Prudential committee, Stephen Bartlett, Benjamin Jacobs, Billings Litchfield, Alfred Litchfield, Anson Robbins, James Southworth, William Copeland, Elijah Cudworth and Nathaniel Brooks.

Until the next decennial census the town was still considered a part of Scituate for State or National election purposes and the voting was at the Scituate Town Hall near Sherman's Corner, just on the dividing line of the towns.



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

For a number of years the schoolhouses were the property of the several school districts but were later taken over by the town.

The member of the prudential committee for the district in which he resided hired the school teachers for his district.

The streets were not officially named until 1870.



CHAPTER III  
SOUTH SCITUATE IN THE CIVIL WAR  
POST 112, G. A. R.

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UPWARDS of one hundred and thirty-five men, natives of the town, filled the quotas of South Scituate in the Civil War, and of these twenty-four were killed or died in the service. Bounty men from other places made the total about two hundred.

Edward Southworth rose to the rank of First Lieutenant and Regimental Quartermaster in the regular service and was attached to a colored regiment, a position of unusual danger, the Confederates being very severe with officers captured while commanding colored troops. Mr. Southworth was a native of this town.

Frederick H. Curtis was a sailor on board the man of war Congress, when that ship was sunk by the Merrimac, near Hampton Roads, Virginia. He escaped capture by jumping overboard and swimming ashore. Many others from here saw hard service. D. Willard Robinson, a young man for whom the local Post was named, died in prison.

Charles N. Gardner, a South Scituate boy, was awarded a medal for distinguished service in capturing a Rebel battle flag and commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant.

John H. Prouty received a 2nd Lieutenant's commission for bravery.

Waldo Turner of Weymouth once Department Commander of Massachusetts G. A. R. was a native of South Scituate.

Charles W. Reed, artist and illustrator, made his home in Norwell, for a time, and was a resident here at the time of his death. He was a Civil War Veteran and was later connected with Frank Leslie's Illustrated Magazine for some years. He was on the Plains with the troops in

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

several of the Indian campaigns and also in Germany. The illustrations in the old Civil War Book, "Hard Tack and Coffee," which was so popular in the 80s', were from his pen. He died in 1926.

Frank Alger, last surviving member of Post 112, was wounded and taken prisoner at Olustee, Florida, and reported dead. A year later he returned to his home, then re-joined his regiment.

Daniel R. Ewell was captured at the Weldon Railroad, and was a prisoner for fourteen months. He was in several of the Rebel prisons, including Libby, Andersonville, Belle Isle and Saulsbury, N. C.

We are printing in full Mr. Fogg's very excellent address on Memorial day in 1924, in which he told the story of the war, the formation of the Post and dedication of the monument.

### ADDRESS OF MR. FOGG

Horace T. Fogg, Esq., spoke before D. Willard Robinson Post 112, G. A. R. on Memorial Day 1924, as follows:

"When I was asked by the Commander of your Post to deliver the address before you on this Memorial Day, while I realized my inability to rise to the high standards required on an occasion of this character, I felt that his invitation was a command, and it was an invitation and a command which no one had a right to decline or ignore. That it is a distinction, I am deeply conscious.

In the many Memorial Days that have passed you have listened to those who were participants in the great struggle of the Civil War, to those who were eye witnesses to the going out and the home-coming of the Boys in Blue. You have listened to those who were active in affairs of state, and to many who have been eminent in church or court. You have heard eloquently portrayed the doubts and uncertainties of those early years, the victories and final success have been set forth in glowing words.

The lessons of that struggle and the wondrous America which was then born anew as a result of your effort and

## SOUTH SCITUATE IN THE CIVIL WAR

of your sacrifices, it has been your privilege to hear time and time again, and it is a story that these meetings have never tired of hearing. An oft repeated tale, it has been most worthy of repetition. But friends, I speak today along somewhat different lines. To you veterans I may perhaps recall certain incidents, to you younger generations I may recite certain facts to you unknown. The opportunity will not be mine to speak of the devotion and loving care shown by this Relief Corps nor of the loyalty of these Sons of Veterans or of the American Legion represented here today.

I would speak first of four Massachusetts regiments the 18th, the 39th the 45th and the 43rd.

To the loyalty and patriotic spirit of citizens of Norfolk and Plymouth Counties is due the origin of this excellent infantry regiment, Mass Volunteers. Companies previously formed and drilled in these towns were ordered into camp at Dedham by Governor Andrews in 1861, and made the nucleus of the 18th. The regiment, mustered in August 27, 1861, left August 26 under orders for Washington. Its history was brilliant, it shared in the battles of the Peninsular, Shepardstown, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Cold Harbor and Weldon R. R. The killed and wounded numbered nearly 250. There were at least 38 men from South Scituate, of whom 8 were killed and 10 wounded. None of the number are living today. The last to die was Edward P. Tolman.

The 39th Mass Infantry was recruited from Bristol, Essex, Norfolk and Plymouth Counties. Of those from Plymouth County a large proportion were from the towns of Hingham, Scituate and South Scituate. It was mustered in September 4, 1862 and June 2, 1865 was mustered out by reason of the close of the war. The 39th served upon picket duty until July 12, 1863 when it was joined to the Army of the Potomac. From May 5, 1864 it was in the thick of the fighting and in nearly all the conflicts that took place in Virginia. The last year of its history was marked by heavy losses. There were at least 19 men in



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Co. G, of this regiment from South Scituate and of that number one died and 9 were discharged for wounds or other disability, one of the number for disabilities contracted in Libby Prison. There are two of Co. G still living and present today, Benjamin W. French and John H. Prouty.

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 1862 was an exciting day in Boston, witnessing the departure of the 45th, the 41st, the 43rd and the 46th Regiments. With the presentation of colors were eloquent patriotic addresses by Gov. John A. Andrew and Hon. Robert C. Winthrop. 18 men at least from South Scituate were present on this occasion of whom Joseph H. Curtis is now living, as well as two members of your own Post, Howard F. Mann, and George A. Hatch. Three of the 45th who afterward reenlisted in the 58th were killed in the service.

I would recall the devotion of those who remained behind and the constant and unfailing efforts of the women's organizations to make the lot of the absent ones a bit less hard to bear. Town meetings were frequent and a glance at our records shows the comfort and aid given to those in need. An article in the warrant of a meeting, held August 18, 1862, deserves passing notice. "Will the Town institute a home guard to detect, bring to light and cause to be punished those amongst us who sympathize with, and aid Treason and Rebellion?" As no action was taken it may be assumed that such activities hardly existed.

We are all familiar with the suggestion that a "crime wave" has to a certain extent followed the World War. That a similar condition existed after the Civil War is evidenced by the fact that in Dec. 1865, letters from the Adjutant General were sent to town officials throughout the state to ascertain what proportion of the returned soldiers had been guilty of any crime since their return home. The response from South Scituate was surely most gratifying. It was evidently written by Samuel Tolman, one of South Scituate's foremost citizens. He



## SOUTH SCITUATE IN THE CIVIL WAR

replied, "No soldier of South Scituate has been guilty of any crime, that as at their country's first call they laid aside the implements of honest industry, grasped the musket, bid a sad adieu to the loved ones at home and hurried to the battle, so when the rebellion was crushed, the Union saved, slavery destroyed, they gladly hastened to their homes, resumed their peaceful avocations and became the same sober, industrious citizens as before. We trust we shall never forget the debt we must forever owe those who have served in the late terrible war and we beg to suggest that some fitting memorial commemorate the names of the young men, who have for Freedom's sake laid down their lives and we believe it our solemn duty at no distant date to erect an enduring monument on which their names be engraved to be read and revered by succeeding generations."

Post 112, was mustered into the Grand Army, November 25, 1869. Of the 11 charter members one is now living, Orlando C. Prouty, whom we met in the cemetery at the Center this morning. He was in Company G, 18th regiment, we had thought until today that all were dead.

Today there are seven surviving members: The largest membership was 126.

At a town meeting held April 1, 1878 it was voted to raise \$1000, to complete the Soldier's monument. The dedication of the monument to the memory of the South Scituate's fallen heroes was on July 4, 1878, anniversary also of the battle of Gettysburg.

The program of the ceremonies of dedication included a procession of the Grand Army, several societies and lodges, clubs, and children of the public schools, but the weather was so intensely hot, the thermometer being 99 in the shade, many of the ceremonies were omitted, while the remainder were carried out in the First Parish church, to which the gathering was adjourned.

The line of procession was formed on Main Street.

South Scituate Brass Band  
David Stoddard, Leader, 20 men

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE—NORWELL

D. Willard Robinson Post 112

O. B. Prouty Commander, 60 men

Carriages containing the orator of the day Gen. Horace Binney Sargent, Chaplain Rev. E. G. Babcock, the President of the day Samuel Tolman, Esq., Hon. John B. D. Cogswell and Col. Brown of the 3rd New Jersey volunteers, Post 31, W. H. Osborn, commander 32 men.

The First Division, Alpheus Thomas, Chief

Rockland Cornet Band, Herbert H. Arnold leader; Hart-suff Post 74, Rockland, J. H. Harper commander, 37 men; Joseph E. Wilder Post 83, Hanover, E. A. Mann commander, 25 men; Joseph E. Simmons Post 111, Pembroke, Myles Sampson commander, 20 men; E. Humphrey Post 104, Hingham, E. T. Bouve commander, 20 men; Theodore L. Bonney Post 127 Hanson, John Barker commander, 40 men.

Second Division—Ezekiel T. Vinal chief, which was to have been made up of various societies did not march; nor the Third Division assigned to J. H. Curtis.

The monument was unveiled by Miss Carrie E. Simmons who, in performing the duty assigned her, drew the curtain from in front of a name most dear to her, that of her father Joseph Simmons, who died in the service of his country.

The monument marked the spot of the entrance to the old Town Hall, through whose portals went forward those who enlisted from South Scituate in that great war.

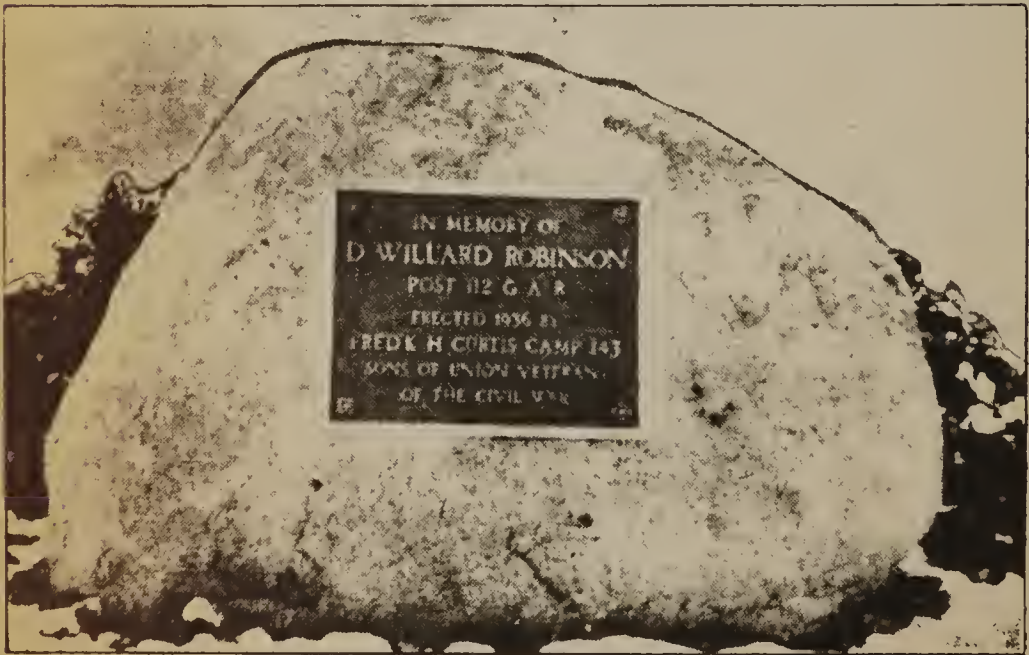
On the front panel of the monument are the words:

Erected In Honor  
of the  
Soldiers and Sailors  
of  
South Scituate  
Who Fell in the  
War of 1861  
For the  
Preservation of the Union

3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10



D. WILLARD ROBINSON MEMORIAL HALL  
Ridge Hill. Built in 1900



MEMORIAL BOULDER TO POST 112, G. A. R.  
Placed in 1936 by Frederick H. Curtis Camp 143, Sons of Union  
Veterans



## SOUTH SCITUATE IN THE CIVIL WAR

On the South Panel:

Liberty and Union  
Established  
By Our Fathers  
Preserved  
Unimpaired  
By the Patriotism  
Of Their Sons

At the east and west sides of the monument are cut the names of 22 soldiers and sailors who fell in the war. I would call the roll, the date following the names being the date they were mustered into the service.

William T. Sylvester of Church Hill, mustered in Aug. 24, 1861, Co. G, 18th Reg. aged 40 years, died in hospital at Philadelphia, Aug. 1, 1862.

Josiah Stoddard 3rd of the name, Aug. 6, 1862, Co. K, 38th Reg. aged 23, died Nov. 17, 1862 in Baltimore, at Stewart's Mansion hospital of typhoid fever. His body was interred at Church Hill, Nov. 26.

Charles L. Stoddard, Aug. 24, 1861, Co. G, 18th Reg., aged 24, died Sept. 22, 1862.

Walter Foster, 2nd, 11th Infantry, July 20, 1864, died at Sickles hospital Oct. 8, 1864, aged 41.

Nathaniel W. Winslow, Aug. 5, 1861, Co. G, 18th Reg., aged 22. Killed in battle, Shepardstown, Md., Sept. 20, 1862.

Addison F. Nichols, Sept. 26, 1862, Co. G, 45th Reg., aged 19 years, re-enlisted Co. I, 58th Reg., killed before Petersburg, Va., June 26, 1864.

Elias Oliver Nichols, brother of Addison, Aug. 20, 1863, taken prisoner and never heard from.

Of Winslow and the two Nichols boys well may it be said:

“They died away from home and friends, our loved ones  
true and brave,  
They have fallen for their country, they fill an unknown  
grave.”

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Lemuel Freeman, Oct. 7, 1862, Co. K, 45th Reg., aged 32, re-enlisted Co. I, 58th Reg., sergeant, died July 1, 1864 at Washington, from wounds received before Petersburg. "He died to make his own race free."

George H. Merritt, Aug. 9, 1862, in the Navy, on the ship Brandywine, later on the Heitzel, transferred to the Louisiana, died Feb. 7, 1863 at the age of 20 years 3 months, buried from the hospital in Little Washington, North Carolina.

On a monument there are these words:

"Is his sleep less sweet in the land where the wild winds swept him,  
Than if soothed to rest at home, and kin and friends had wept him?"

Henry Currell, tried to enlist at 17, later enlisted in the Navy, Feb. 24, 1864, and died in the Naval hospital at Brooklyn, March 12, 1865, aged 19½ years.

Edward Dover, Aug. 24, 1861, Co. G, 18th Reg., died in South Scituate, March 1, 1862.

William J. Whitcomb, June 15, 1861, Co. F, 7th Reg., died March 20, 1862, in Washington, D. C., aged 18.

Clifton C. Vose, Sept. 12, 1862, Co. D, 44th Reg., re-enlisted April 1864, was at Andersonville prison, could not withstand the hardships of prison life, died Charlestown, South Carolina, Oct. 28, 1864, aged 21 years.

Gustavus Jacobs, Aug. 24, 1861, Co. G, 18th Reg., age 18 years, died at hospital, Hall's Hill, Va., Jan. 12, 1862.

Sidney Gardner, Aug. 6, 1862, Co. G, 18th Reg., aged 19, killed at Petersburg, Va., June 30, 1864.

Abial Farrar, Oct. 27, 1864, Co. M, 1st Reg., H. A., aged 18, died March 1, 1865, in Field hospital.

Joshua S. Damon, Aug. 29, 1864, Co. D, 2nd Reg., Heavy artillery, age 44, died of yellow fever at Newbern, North Carolina, Oct. 2, 1864.

Henry H. Gardner, Aug. 4, 1862, Co. G, 18th Reg., aged 21, died Dec. 18, 1862, of wounds received in battle of Fredericksburg.

## SOUTH SCITUATE IN THE CIVIL WAR

Henry W. Harlow, Aug. 24, 1861, Co. G, 18th Reg., aged 20, died Oct. 9, 1861 at hospital at Hill, Va.

Of the ten last named nine were but boys with average age of barely 19.

“What though brief their date,  
We reckon life by deeds, not years,  
That life is long which answers life’s great end.”

Herbert Graves, West Scituate, left Hingham, May 16, 1861 at the first call aged 26. I find no record of his death.

Joseph Simmons, Co. D, 39th Reg., Sept. 2, 1862, aged 33, died at Washington, March 3, 1864. He left a widow and three children.

Beza W. Drake, Dec. 7, 1863, Co. H, 2nd Reg., H. A., aged 19, died at Andersonville prison, Georgia, July 25, 1864. In the Soldiers Story of Captivity at Andersonville by Warren L. Goss, he speaks of B. W. Drake, a lad about 18 years of age a victim of despondency and starvation. He wasted away to a mere skeleton and finally died.

Samuel Spencer, June 26, '61, Co. B, 12th Reg., aged 20, mortally wounded in trenches, died at City Point, Va., June 25, 1864, the day preceding the expiration of his service.

“He rests with those who every danger braved  
Unmarked, untrophied, mid the soil they saved.”

And last of the number:

David Willard Robinson, Dec. 7, 1863, Co. H, 2nd Reg., H. A., aged 18. His father David P., was a corporal in the same company. The story of his short, sad, but glorious life has often been told. A prisoner with his father at Andersonville, who when the offer was made to him to go out to work, replied, “No! I know for what I enlisted and have been fighting for, the boy and I may die, but we will never desert the cause.” This was in July of '64. In Sept. they were moved with many other prisoners to Florence, South Carolina. It was dark and



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

raining hard when they arrived. Water and mud combined to make the ground an uncomfortable bed. During the first night a large number died, among them D. Willard Robinson, while lying under the same blanket as his father.

The father was refused permission to bury the body, he spread the poor remnants of his handkerchief over the face of his dead son, it was all that he could do. He left him there never to meet until the glory of a brighter morning.

The graves of many of these have not been decorated today by you, but they have been decorated with a crown of everlasting glory. The cause for which they suffered and died has triumphed.

A glorious immortality is theirs,  
They have not died in vain.

You have borne with me very kindly, but I would trespass on your patience a moment longer, and I would call the roll of the living.

Eight names I had on this list a week ago, one of that number Jacob B. Sulham, died Sunday last, aged 88 years. He enlisted July 2, 1861, Co. A, 16th Reg., Cambridge, aged 22, transferred Jan. 1, 1864 to the 10th Mass Battery.

But seven remain:

Alfred B. Litchfield, your commander, enlisted Sept. 15, 1862, aged 25, Co. G, 45th Reg. We trust he may be your commander often in the future as he has been in the past.

Edwin R. Studley, enlisted Aug. 25, 1862, 11th Mass Battery. Hale and hearty at 90 odd.

George A. Hatch, enlisted Sept. 2, 1862, Co. F, 43rd Reg., aged 24. He listened to Robert C. Winthrop on Boston Common, Sept. 1862.

Howard F. Mann, enlisted from Hanover, Co. F, 43rd Reg. Sept. 1862, aged 18, re-enlisted May 30, 1864, Co. I, 58th Reg.

## SOUTH SCITUATE IN THE CIVIL WAR

Frank Alger, Aug. 31, 1862, Co. I, 40th Reg., aged 18. He served until the end of the war. He was taken prisoner, and was with D. Willard Robinson, when he died.

Benjamin W. French, Sept. 2, 1862, Co. 8, 39th Mass Reg., aged 18. We are proud of his presence today, he carried the flag about as well as the boys.

John H. Prouty responded to the first call May 18, 1861, in the Lincoln Light Infantry of Hingham, re-enlisted sergeant in Co. F, 39th Reg., aged 23 years, promoted to 2nd lieutenant and discharged after the close of the war.

Long may all of you live and prosper.

After all the sadness of these Memorial Days has in great measure vanished.

The ties of kinship, friendship, love and affection are now almost all on the other side, and sadness and mourning may well be turned to happiness and rejoicing, and now for all who have gone before well may we say:

“Ten thousand times ten thousand,  
In sparkling raiment bright,  
The armies of the ransomed saints,  
Throng up the streets of light,  
'Tis finished, all is finished,  
Their fight with death and sin  
Fling open wide the golden gate,  
And let the victors in.”

(From Rockland Independent of June 6, 1924)

Following is a list of men who served from South Scituate including, so far as we have been able to obtain them, those who were non-residents, but helped fill the quotas of this town:

Bates, Lorenzo, 39th Regt.

Bowker, Joseph B., 18th Regt.

Bassford, David, 7th Regt.

Bartholomew, George, Navy; 39th Regt.

Brown, William F., 45th Regt.

Bowker, Frank L., 3rd H. A.

Curtis, Fred H., Navy

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Curtis, George, 3rd unattached  
Chamberlain, J. W. Jr., 1st H. A.  
Coleman, Elisha, 7th Regt.  
Clapp, Stephen, 18th Regt.  
Curtis, Joseph H., 43rd Regt.  
Curtis, George W., 43rd Regt.  
Clapp, Caleb N., 39th Regt.  
Clapp, George H., 18th Regt.  
Chapman, Timothy, 39th Regt.  
Corthell, John, 39th Regt.  
Crosby, Joshua Jr., 3rd unattached  
Carey, William, Navy, (substitute)  
Carson, M. F.  
Cronan, Dennis  
Colbert, Thomas, (substitute)  
Cooper, John, 2nd Cavalry.  
Conners, Patrick, 13th Lt. Bat.  
Cameau, John, Navy  
Childs, William H., Navy  
Damon, Freeman, 45th Regt.  
Damon, Ensign B., 45th Regt.  
Damon, John W., 18th Regt.  
Dover, Edward, 18th Regt.  
Drake, Beza W., 2nd H. A.  
DeCoster, Albert, 11th Bat. Cavalry  
Dyer, Franklin, 3rd unattached  
Dunn, Michael  
Decatur, A. H., Cav. Frontier service.  
Ewell, Daniel R., 39th Regt.  
Fairbanks, George O., 24th unattached  
Foster, Charles A., 3rd Art.  
Foster, Walter 2nd, 11th Regt.  
Farrar, Henry A., 18th Regt.  
Farrar, Henry R., 3rd R. I., H. A.  
Farrar, Charles H., 45th Regt.  
Freeman, Lemuel, 45th Regt.  
French, Benjamin W., 39th Regt.  
Freeman, Warren F., 54th Regt.







MEMORIAL DAY, ASSINIPPI, ABOUT 1878  
South Scituate and Hanover G. A. R. Posts. Note blurred outline of flag to  
left of center door, and of trees.  
*(Photo by James H. Williams)*





## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Hopkins, Nathan, Navy  
Iverson, John D., Navy  
Ingalls, Charles, Navy  
Inman, Andrew S., 15th Regt.  
Jacobs, Elisha A., 44th Regt.  
Jacobs, A.  
Jacobs, Gustavus, 44th Regt.  
Jenkins, Henry T., 43rd Regt.  
Jenkins, Riley E., 14 Regt.  
Jackman, George M., 18th Regt.  
Kilburn, Thomas R., 45th Regt.  
Kirk, James T., 15th Regt.  
Kimball, Henry, 16th unattached  
Knight, R. G., Cav. Frontier service  
Litchfield, William C., 1st H. A.  
Litchfield, Henry B., Navy  
Lewis, John W., 43rd Regt.  
Lewis, John, 18th Regt.  
Litchfield, Liba W., 43rd Regt.  
Lawrence, Thomas R., 43rd Regt.  
Lapham, Elisha W., 18th Regt.  
Litchfield, Alfred B., 45th Regt.  
Litchfield, Edwin M., 45th Regt.  
Leroy, Charles, 39th Regt.  
Leavitt, Charles M. Jr., 2nd Cav.  
Lee, Benjamin F., 54th Regt.  
Mee, Thomas, 13th Lt. Bat.  
Monahan, Patrick  
Marshall, William H., 1st Bat. Cav.  
Merritt, George H., Navy  
Michliniske, 28th Cav.  
Murphy, Patrick (substitute)  
Nichols, Elias O.  
Nichols, Addison F., 45th Regt.  
Nichols, Wilbur  
Newhall, Francis A., Frontier service, Cav.  
Paris, Octave, Cav. Frontier service  
Potter, William E., 3rd unattached

## SOUTH SCITUATE IN THE CIVIL WAR

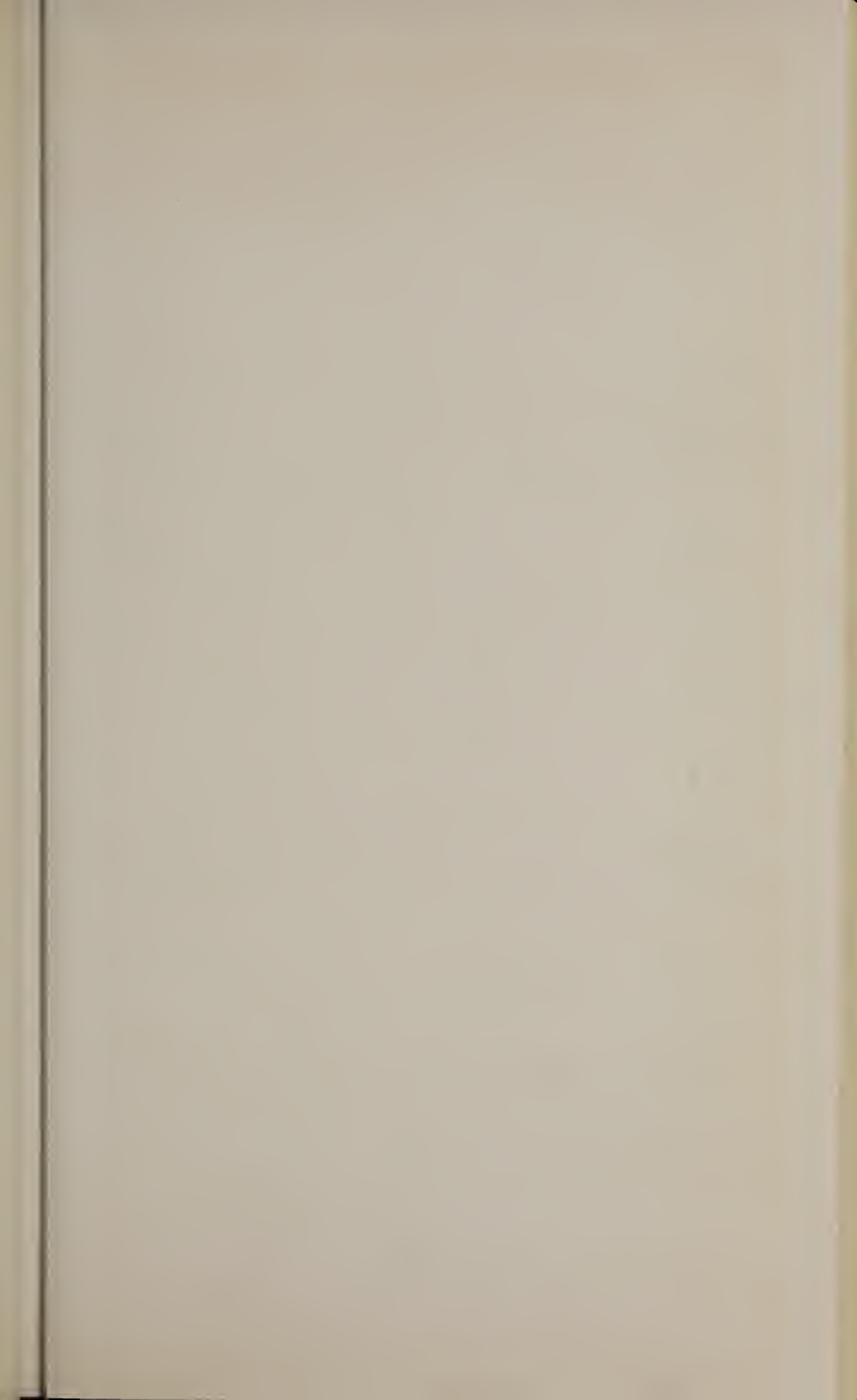
Prouty, Orlando C., 18th Regt.  
Prouty, Oliver C.  
Prouty, John H., 39th Regt.  
Prouty, William Jr., 39th Regt.  
Prouty, Isaac, 39th Regt.  
Penniman, John W., 39th Regt.  
Pratt, Elias E., 43rd Regt.  
Payne, Reuben H., 45th Regt.  
Prouty, Benjamin W., 39th Regt.  
Powell, James, Frontier service  
Powell, N. B., 58th Regt.  
Prince, Jason, 54th Regt.  
Patterson, James, 2nd Cav.  
Raymond, Thomas A., 43rd Regt.  
Robinson, David P., 7th Regt.  
Robinson, David W., 2nd H. A.  
Riggs, Charles  
Ring, Joseph, Navy  
Sanborn, Ira B., 1st H. A.  
Sparrell, James N., 18th Regt.  
Sparrell, Charles W., 43rd Regt.  
Sylvester, William T., 18th Regt.  
Southworth, Edward, 18th Regt.  
Stetson, Abner L., 18th Regt.  
Stetson, George F., 18th Regt.  
Sherman, Calvin F., 39th Regt.  
Sawyer, Albert, 3rd R. I. H. A.  
Stoddard, James E., 18th, R. I., H. A.  
Stoddard, Charles L., 18th, R. I., H. A.  
Spencer, John H., 43rd R. I., H. A.  
Stevens, Horace P., 44th, R. I., H. A.  
Stevens, George, 45th, R. I., H. A.  
Simmons, Joseph, 39th R. I., H. A.  
Studley, George  
Studley, Willard  
Stokes, John  
Sawyer, Elbridge, H. A.  
Torrey, George O., 18th Regt.

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Torrey, Henry A., 18th Regt.  
Tolman, Edward P., 18th Regt.  
Tolman, Charles, 18th Regt.  
Talbot, Robert J., Navy  
Thomas, Alpheus, 39th Regt.  
Thomas, William O., 39th Regt.  
Tolman, George T., 43rd Regt.  
Turner, Henry A., 43rd Regt.  
Totman, John F., 45th Regt.  
Thompson, James, 5th Cav.  
Twist, Charles H., 1st Cav.  
Turner, William, Contraband  
Vose, Clifton H., 45th Regt.  
Vinal, Seth H., 43rd Regt.  
Vinal, Amos F., 43rd Regt.  
Wentworth, George O., 2nd Cav.  
Wentworth, Henry T., 2nd Cav.  
Warner, James W.  
Whitcomb, William H., 7th Regt.  
Winslow, Nathaniel W., 18th Regt.  
Whiting, George W., 39th Regt.  
Waterman, Rhodolphus  
Winslow, Albert, 45th Regt.  
Winslow, Richard S., 54th Regt.  
Winslow, Henry T., 54th Regt.  
Wilton, W. B., 1st Cav.  
Wilson, Thomas, 4th Cav.  
Walls, John W., Contraband  
Wood, William H., Navy  
Young, Charles C., 39th Regt.

Among those who enlisted from other towns or cities, but later, at the close of the war, became residents of this town were:

Frank Alger	Edward W. Humphrey
Charles D. Barnard	Howard F. Mann
Seth O. Fitts	Edwin R. Studley
Thomas O. Hayden	George A. Hatch
William O. Merritt, Jr.	Capt. Augustus Hatch







POST 112, G. A. R. IN 1925

Standing—George A. Hatch, Frank Alger, Benjamin W. French.  
Sitting—Alfred B. Litchfield, John H. Prouty, Edwin R. Studley, Howard  
F. Mann. Cut made through courtesy of Norwell Post 192, American Legion

*(Photograph by Jared Gardner)*

## SOUTH SCITUATE IN THE CIVIL WAR

John W. Chadwick	Jacob B. Sulham
Samuel Keene	Charles W. Reed
Benjamin Stetson	Samuel A. Lester
Jarius N. Healey, Navy	James H. Williams
Charles Humphrey	William H. Rand

The following item appeared in one of the Boston papers July 11, 1863:

**MILITARY:**—"Arrival of sick Soldiers—The steamer Convoy arrived yesterday morning with upward of three hundred sick and convalescent soldiers from Newbern, principally of the 43rd, 48th, 46th and 51st Regiments. About nine o'clock Thursday evening the Convoy struck off Scituate beach a short distance from shore.

One hundred and forty-nine men were landed early in the morning in charge of Assistant Surgeon Marcey and First Lieut. George H. Nickerson of the 43rd Regiment, were hospitably received, came to the city by railroad and were taken to the Beach Street, barracks.

The Convoy got off at high water and came up to Battery Wharf, without injury yesterday."

The paper did not mention the fact that many of the men who lived in the neighborhood, and in South Scituate, left the vessel and immediately repaired to their respective homes. Among them were Charles W. Sparrell of the 43rd and Henry T. Jenkins, so we have been told.

In 1864 the town fitted the Town Hall as an armory and the returned soldiers whose time was out were formed into a reserve company. The company was disbanded in 1866.

Post 112 was organized in 1869.

From the early days of the Grand Army of the Republic it was the custom for the South Scituate and Hanover posts to meet at the Assinippi Church on Memorial Day, march to the Assinippi Cemetery and decorate the graves of their comrades.

This custom has continued through the years until



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

there are none of them left. It is now being carried on by the Sons of Veterans.

An old photograph taken by James H. Williams, the leading photographer of those times, in this section, shows them drawn up in line before the church.

This photograph was probably taken about 1880, or a little earlier and their numbers will be a revelation to the present generation, who have been accustomed to see a mere handful of the old veterans in line on Memorial Day, and for the past two years, none at all.



CHAPTER IV  
THE OLD SOUTH SCITUATE  
TOWN HALL

THE story of the old town hall that served the Town of Scituate for many years and echoed to the thunder of Hon. John Bryant Turner's rulings as moderator, at the stormy meetings of those times and later, after 1849, witnessed the equally stormy meetings of the qualified voters of South Scituate who fought a bitter fight over its location and for its continued existence, which lasted without any interruption, until it was destroyed by fire in 1884 is rather interesting. It was in this hall, which was located at the time of the Civil War where the Soldier's Monument now stands, in Norwell Village, that the war meetings were held. Here it was that the men volunteered and were enlisted. Here the ladies of the town met to sew for the outfitting of the soldiers and make bandages, and scrape lint. Later as the war progressed, it was turned into an armory with musket racks along the sides to accommodate the equipment of a company, and drills were held.

It was in this building that the meetings of Post 112, G. A. R. were held from its organization until the hall was destroyed and also the meetings of the South Scituate Brass Band from 1874.

The members of the post were all comparatively young men, as were likewise the members of the band, and their camp-fire meetings, fairs, and dances were all held here. The hall was famous for its dances and social affairs for miles around.

Now that the actors of these days have nearly all passed on and so few are living that can remember the old times, the arguments between the contending factions and



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

the spouting of the regular orators at town meetings of a day before advisory boards and other modern innovations had taken the pep and interest out of town meeting, and certain voters felt it their duty to question every item of expenditure, and every new project, it is safe to tell the story of the hall and what a struggle it had to exist.

When the Act was passed separating the westerly portion of the Town of Scituate from the rest of the town and incorporating it under the name of South Scituate one of the most difficult matters to settle was the division of the town property.

During the year 1849 the new town held several meetings in Mr. Stetson's Church, at all of which the question of a town hall was discussed. The committee chosen to divide the real estate between the two towns, after much backing and filling, with a like committee representing the Town of Scituate, finally arranged for the Town of South Scituate to purchase the town hall, the almshouse, the town flats and all of the real estate owned by Scituate at the time of the division. At its meeting May 14, 1849, the town voted to place the town house on the westerly part of the common on which the South Meeting House stands, and the selectmen were chosen a committee to remove the hall, from its location near Sherman's corner, in Scituate, to its new location.

From this day contention began between the East and West wards that continued for over 35 years, with the people of the South ward, for the most part, siding with the East ward.

June 25, 1849, a meeting called to reconsider the above vote and locate the town house farther westerly and give it a more central location for all parts of the town was dissolved without action.

On July 16, 1849, at another meeting containing the same article, with the Hon. William James acting as moderator, it was voted not to change the location. Yes 138, No 169.

Again, on Dec. 1, 1849, Mr. James presided at a meeting

## THE OLD SOUTH SCITUATE TOWN HALL

called for the same purpose, but no action was taken other than some minor alterations authorized in gallery and on speakers desk and platform. Other changes were authorized January 28, 1850.

April 1, 1850, Nathaniel Clapp was chosen a committee to sell the old town house lot in Scituate and give title.

In 1853 the committee chosen to ascertain the center of the town reported, and it was voted to place a stone monument on the spot. This committee, by the way, was instructed to employ an out of town surveyor to do the job.

At the annual meeting March 6, 1852 there was an article in the warrant to close the town hall against balls and exhibitions, but no action was taken.

At a meeting March 1, 1858, Nathaniel B. Clapp, moderator, it was voted to move the town hall to a spot as near the center of the town as convenient and chose Ansel Grose, Benjamin Jacobs, John K. Nash, Thomas Jones and Nathaniel B. Clapp, a committee to move the town hall. It was also voted to allow the use of it for Sunday services.

April 24, 1858, Elijah Barstow moderator, a special meeting, containing several articles all relating to the removal of the town hall to the center of the town, was held, but no action was taken.

On Nov. 9, 1859, Samuel Tolman, moderator, it was voted to open the hall free for all meetings where no admission was charged and to heat and light it if necessary; and on March 4, 1861 he presided at a meeting containing an article in the warrant to build an additional town hall in the West Ward and also one in the South Ward.

April 8, 1861, voted not to open Sachem and Assinippi hall free for moral religious and intellectual improvement and to open the hall only when pay is required of the solicitor.

May 6, 1861: Voted to allow the town hall to be opened free for the ladies to sew on the soldiers' clothing and for the soldiers' to drill, also Sachem and Assinippi halls for the same purposes.

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

(Just what authority the town had over Sachem and Assinippi Halls we cannot understand. Probably the voters meant that the town would pay for the use of these halls.)

March 5, 1866: Voted repairs on hall and to fix price for use.

April 5, 1869: Voted to sell the town pound for \$8 and old hearse house and to pass over articles to move town hall.

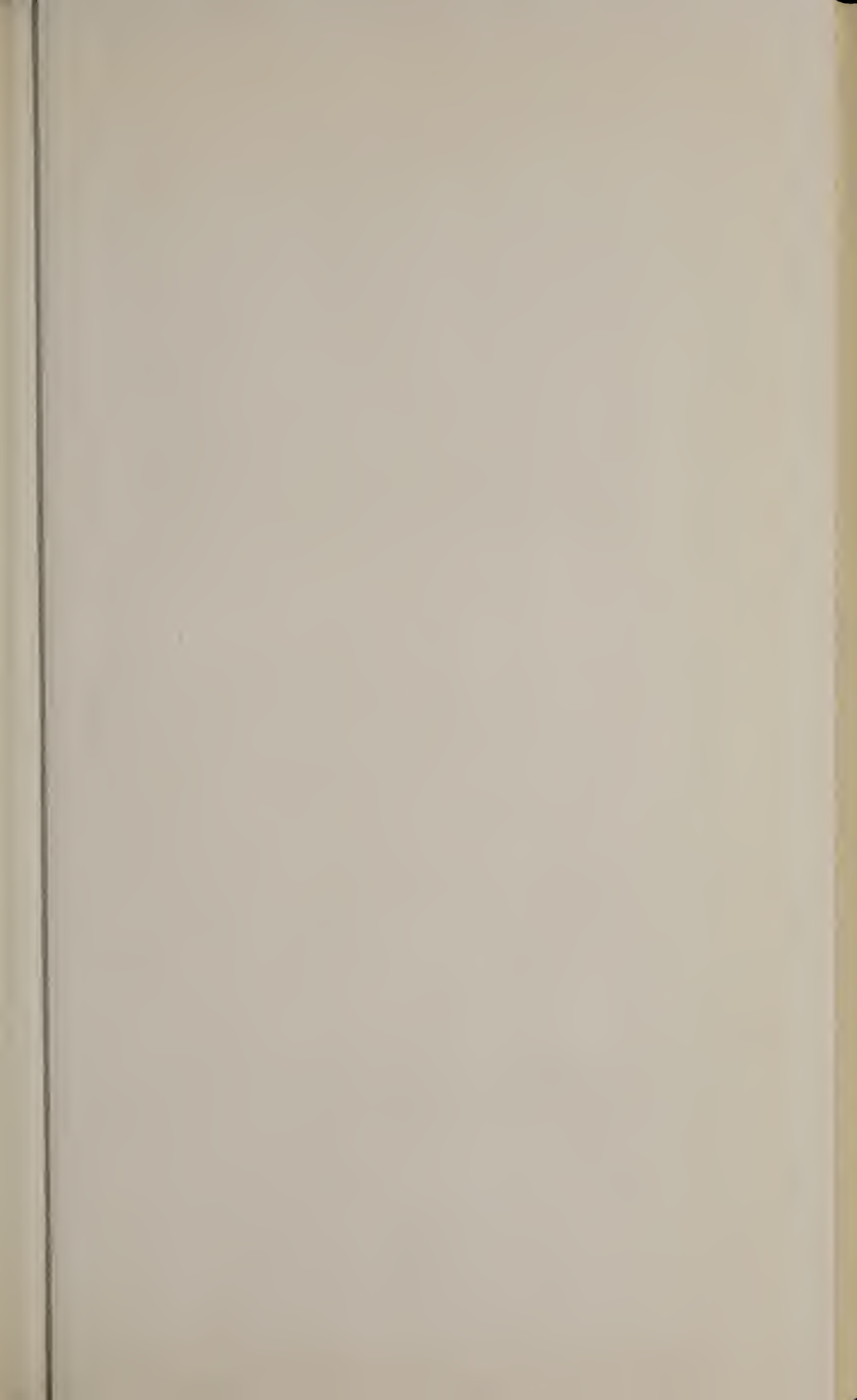
March 6, 1871: Samuel Tolman Jr., moderator. Voted that a committee be chosen with full power and authority to remove the Town House across the highway upon land now belonging to Israel Nash at an expense to the town not exceeding \$300. Provided arrangements can be made with said Nash as to land, expense etc., satisfactory to said committee. The Selectmen, Ebenezer T. Fogg and Elisha Jacobs were chosen as a committee to carry the above vote into effect. The selectmen were Edward Stowell, Thomas B. Waterman and Charles A. Litchfield. The attempt to place a basement under the hall was defeated. This removal was carried out without any great opposition. The work being done by Seth Sprague of Hingham.

May 2, 1871: Voted the free use of Town Hall to Post 112, G. A. R. for regular meetings.

March 2, 1874: Voted that selectmen be authorized to hire Mr. Barnard to have charge of hall if they deem it advisable .

April 20: Voted free use of hall to South Scituate Brass Band.

April 3, 1876: Voted to build a new town hall in the center to be so constructed as to accommodate the High school. Chose B. M. Young, Peleg Curtis, Charles Litchfield, C. A. Litchfield, Willard Torrey, Samuel Turner and D. B. Ford as a committee with instructions to ascertain the whole facts relative to establishing a high school in the center of the town, also building a town hall to accommodate the high school, and to furnish the town with







SOUTH SCITUATE SAVINGS BANK  
Built in 1885 as combined store and bank building.  
Entirely remodeled in 1936



DEDICATION IN 1922 OF MEMORIAL TREE AT  
RIDGE HILL SCHOOL  
Comrades Howard Mann, Benjamin W. French, Henry F. Ford and  
John H. Prouty of Post 112, G. A. R.  
(Photograph by Mrs. Minnie Farrar)

## THE OLD SOUTH SCITUATE TOWN HALL

the information of the probable cost when finished. To report at a subsequent meeting.

May 1, 1876: Voted to accept the report of committee on Town Hall and High school. Chose Willard Torrey, George H. Torrey, Ezekiel T. Vinal, Richard P. Briggs and Franklin Jacobs as a committee to build a new Town Hall to accommodate a high school, also, as near the center of the town as land can be procured. Voted to expend a sum not to exceed \$6500 for new town hall. Voted to build a basement to accommodate horses. Voted that the treasurer be authorized to hire \$6500, for the building of the hall.

May 29, 1876: The East ward evidently got busy for it was voted to discharge committee on new town hall and to reconsider the vote whereby it was voted to authorize the treasurer to hire \$6500 to build same. Voted that selectmen be a committee to settle with the contractor for the building of the hall and to take charge of all the property on new town house lot.

July 27, 1876: An attempt to bring up the matter was defeated, and again on August 8, still another attempt to secure a new hall on the lot already purchased of William P. Brooks was voted down. Yes 51, No. 141, and it was voted to sell all material purchased for the new building within ten days at public auction.

Still another attempt was unsuccessful October 2, 1876.

Still again on April 11, 1881, Joseph T. Hartt, moderator, there were several articles in regard to moving town hall, but they were all passed over.

March 6, 1882: A new floor, new windows and other repairs were authorized.

One morning early in 1884, smoke was discovered coming out of the building. The writer was attending the District No. 5 Grammar school just across the street, at the time, and remembers the alarm being given and the teacher, Miss Mary E. Sparrell, telling the larger boys that they might go. It was the usual story. The fire had gained such headway that it was impossible to put it out



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

and the building soon burned. The Grand Army lost their records and equipment and the school boys were busy for the next few days in fishing musket barrels and dress swords, bayonets and belt hooks out of the ruins, which articles many of them kept as souvenirs.

On June 16, 1884: A meeting was held at Jones' factory, with Alpheus Thomas, moderator, and it was voted that all future meetings until a new hall was built be held at John H. Jones' factory. This factory was located nearly opposite Louis Ogden's place on Main street.

Voted to appropriate \$400 for hall and Richard Briggs was to procure and lay foundation with full power relating to basement of hall. The plans of J. Williams Beal were accepted and a committee consisting of Frederick H. Curtis, George H. Torrey and David W. Turner was chosen as a building committee.

Leander Sherman of Marshfield received the contract to build the hall to be finished on or before November 1, 1884, and on January 19, 1885, Sylvanus Clapp presided at a meeting to hear and act on the report of the building committee and to provide for heating, lighting and furnishing the new building. February 28, 1885, Alpheus Thomas was moderator of a meeting to arrange for dedicating the new hall. The selectmen were this committee and were authorized to appoint what assistants they needed. Thus after thirty-five years of constant bickering the town hall was located in the geographical center of the town and the contentions of the past generation are now forgotten. In 1896 the High school was moved into the new town hall building and in 1922 a new high school building was attached to it. So the dreams of the men of 1876 at last came true.

## CHAPTER V

# CHANGE OF NAME

**D**URING the fall and winter of 1886 there was a wave of dissatisfaction spreading among the people in regard to the name of the town. It was claimed by many that much of the mail went to South Scituate, Rhode Island, others argued that the town would never prosper under its old name and that it was better to get away from the old associations with the mother town of Scituate and the majority of the inhabitants become hysterical in their desire for a change.

A small minority of the older people and those who cherished the old traditions vainly tried to stem the tide, but the propaganda had done its work and it was futile to resist.

A petition of nearly three hundred names was filed and at the annual meeting in March 1887, the following vote was passed:

“Chose the Selectmen a committee to petition the Legislature to change the name of the Town. Any person desiring a name to send their wish to the Selectmen, they to select six to present to the Legislature.”

In response to this petition the Legislature of 1888 authorized “the Town of South Scituate to take the name of Norwell, Standish, Deane, Cushing or Hatherly,” and at the annual meeting March 5, 1888, the town chose the name of Norwell by the following vote: Norwell 215, Cushing 2, Standish 2, Hatherly 2.

Mr. Henry Norwell for whom the town was named was a summer resident and a member of the firm of Shepard Norwell & Co. of Boston. He was greatly interested in the welfare of his town and for ten years subscribed \$2,500 each year toward the upkeep of the roads.



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Mr. Norwell always retained his interest in the town. He was for two years President of the South Scituate Savings Bank and when he died at his winter home in Florida, in February 1903, the news was received with regret by his fellow townspeople and friends.







HENRY NORWELL

Boston merchant, who lived here, on Norwell Avenue, for many years. The town took his name in 1888, and he initiated a general improvement of the highways.

CHAPTER VI  
GAFFIELD PARK

THE following letter was received by the selectmen back in 1895:

Norwell, August 28, 1895

To the Selectmen of the Town of Norwell:—  
Gentlemen:

I have purchased the land lying between River street, Forest avenue and Forest street, and desire to present it to the Town of Norwell for a Children's Park, with the condition that the wood shall be forever preserved and the grounds maintain in good condition for the use of the children of the town for a picnic and playground. I will send a deed whenever you notify me that my proposition is agreeable to your Board and the people of the Town.

Yours truly,

THOMAS GAFFIELD

At the annual meeting, March 2, 1896, the town voted to accept the above gift on the conditions stated and a vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Gaffield. It was also voted that on Arbor Day the townspeople meet at the park with all necessary tools and that the ladies of the town be invited to serve a spread. Also voted to name the place "Gaffield Park" and that Mr. Gaffield be invited to superintend the work on Arbor Day.

A good number gathered and much work was done in clearing and burning underbrush. Mr. Gaffield had caused a dance board to be built and dancing and other games were enjoyed. After which the gathering adjourned to Fogg's hall where a lunch and speaking were the order of the day.

Several concerts were afterwards given at the park and it was used the day of the coaching parade July 5,

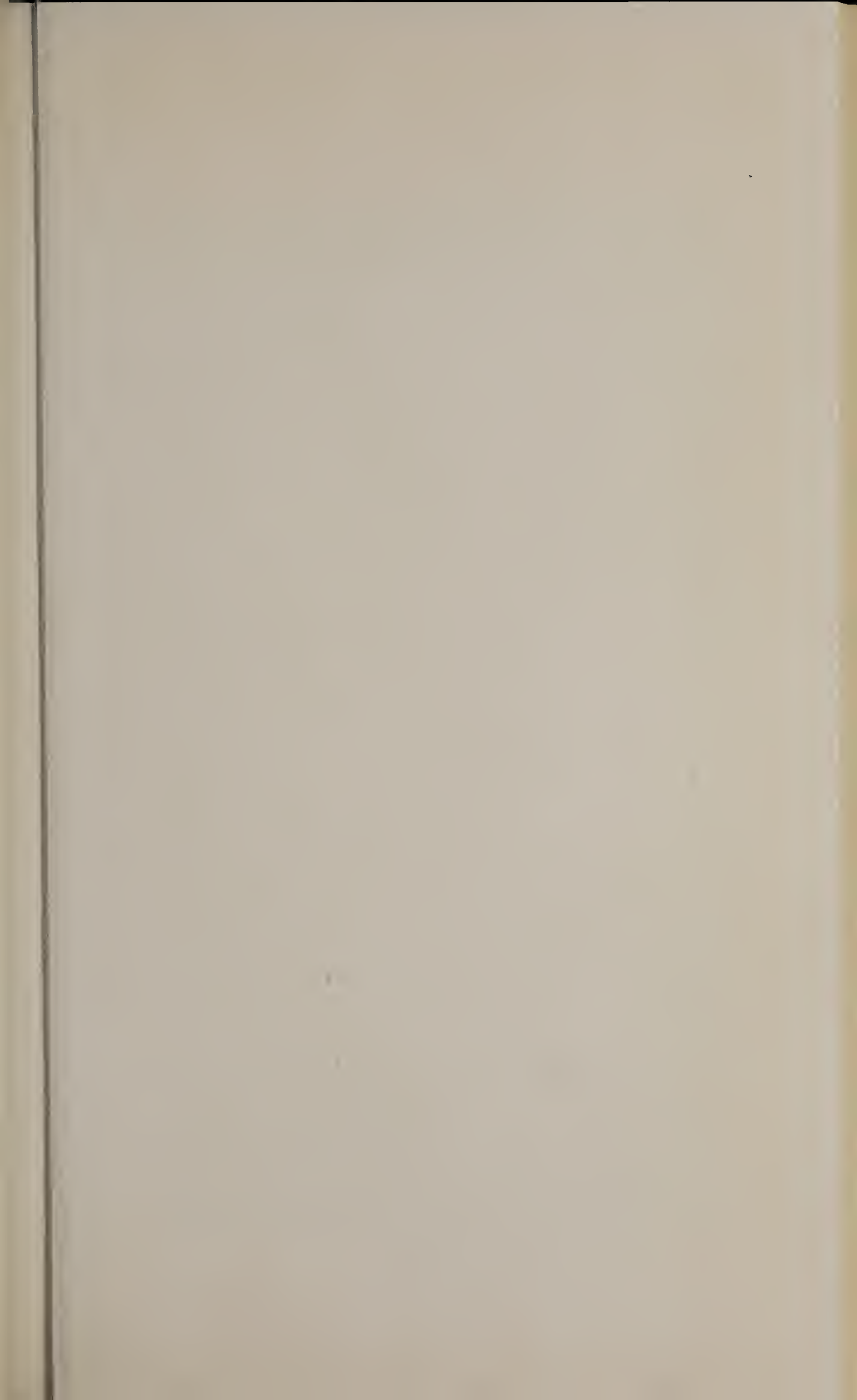


## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

1897, but it has been used very little for the purpose that the donor had in mind when he gave it to the town. This is probably due to the fact that the children of the town are so widely scattered and to the changed conditions and manner of living. Were it located in the heart of a city instead of a country town it would be better appreciated. It has always been kept in fair condition, a small appropriation being made each year for this purpose. Much work was done here by the Civil Works Administration in 1933-4.

Thomas Gaffield, the donor, was a very prominent man. He was a native of Boston and was for years associated with the firm of Tuttle Gaffield and Co., manufacturers of window glass. He was considered one of the best authorities on that subject in the country. He studied at the Lawrence Scientific school at Harvard, visited Europe to study the methods in those countries. He was a member of many prominent scientific bodies. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, The Natural History Society, The Commercial Club and at one time served on the Board of Aldermen and in the Common Council of Boston. He was a member of the American Unitarian Association. He gave his library on glass and porcelain to the Institute of Technology. Many valuable books to the Boston Public Library, and his Theological Library of the Liberal Faith to the James Library at Norwell. He married for his second wife, Miss Maria W. Turner of Norwell and on retiring from active business they spent much of their time at the old Turner homestead in this town. Mr. Gaffield took great pride in the village and was always doing something for the public good.







GAFFIELD PARK COMMUNITY DAY, ARBOR DAY, 1896  
Thomas Gaffield stands at left of center. Picture loaned by Mrs. Mary L. F. Power.  
(*Photograph by J. A. Tripp*)



## CHAPTER VII

# NORWELL IN THE WORLD WAR

### Welcome Home Day—Organization of Norwell Post, The American Legion

**T**HE town was very fortunate that none of its soldiers were killed, and only one severely wounded, Private William E. Leslie, who lost an arm, during the World War.

It did its full share in the Liberty Loan Drives and answered every call that was made by the committees intrusted with the task of conserving resources and helping to carry on the war.

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#### Citizens of Norwell who were in any branch of the United States Service during the war with Germany

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Ainslie, Claude W. — Battery A. 55th Reg. C. A. C.,  
U. S. N.

Ainslie, Ellery Francis Jr.—12th Depot Bat., Co. 8, Signal  
Corps. Fort Slocum and Camp Vail, N. J.

Beach, Howard Washington—92d Div., 317th Engineers,  
A. E. F. Seven months in France.

Bell, Chester Ambrose—Wentworth Institute, Co. B, U.  
S. Inf.

Bowker, Stuart R.—104th Co., 25 Bat., Syracuse, N. Y.  
Salvage Co., Camp Devens.

Brainerd, Abbott—Y. M. C. A. Service Secretary, eleven  
months in France.

Briggs, Paul D. L.—Co. L, 302d Inf., Camp Devens. Co.  
A, U. S. G., Jersey City, N. J. Sixteen months in  
service.



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

- Brown, Harry Briggs—Headquarters Co. 306th Field Artillery, 77th Division, A. E. F. Fifteen months in France.
- Brown, William Henry—Supply Co., 101st Reg., 26th Div. A. E. F. Eighteen months in France.
- Brown, Ralph Eugene—Northeastern College Unit, Boston.
- Burns, John Wendell, Jr.—Medical Unit, Service in Peyton, England; Brest, France.
- Buswell, John S.—3d Engineers Corps, Canal Zone.
- Damon, Arthur Russell—U. S. Navy 3 years, 3 months. Discharged. U. S. A. at Camp Lynnfield 3 months.
- De Gainer, Arthur—39th Inf., Co. C, 4th Div. A. E. F.
- Delano, Frederic Burton—Headquarters Co., 9th Inf., 2d Div. A. E. F. Sergeant. With army of occupation in Germany.
- Delano, Henry Franklin—344th Machine Gun Co., 90th Div., A. E. F. Army of occupation in Germany. Eleven months in service.
- Ellms, Edgar Howard—Sergt., Co. B, 18th Regt. Eng., A. E. F. One year and ten months in France.
- Everett, Harold—3d Co., 1st Bat., 157th Depot Brigade, Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Ga.
- Fogg, Harry Thayer—Camp Devens.
- Fredrickson, Frederick Adolph—Camp Devens, Mass.
- Harrison, Fred James—325th Co., Camp Stewart, Newport News, Va.
- Haskins, Edward Beckman—Student Army Training Corps.
- Henderson, Irving Russell—General Headquarters Co., Coast Artillery. With A. E. F. eight months in France.
- Howland, Percy Hale—Engineers' Dept., Student Army Training Corps.
- Kidder, Harold Russell— Troop L., 14th Cavalry, Fort McIntosh, Texas.

## NORWELL IN THE WORLD WAR

- Leslie, William Edward — Co. K, 101st Inf., A. E. F.  
Wounded in France.
- Lincoln, Herbert Austin— U. S. Battleship Nebraska,  
transferred to the U. S. Superdreadnaught Florida,  
8 months in the service.
- Meranda, Tony—Seven months at Camp Devens.
- Merritt, James Lewis—Camp Devens.
- Morey, Dana White—24th Coast Artillery, Newport, R.  
I. One year and six months in the service.
- Mott, Stephen Allen—Headquarters Co., 103d Regt., 26th  
Div., A. E. F. Ten months in France.
- Olson, Frederick S.—U. S. Akbar, U. S. N. Training  
Station, Rockland, Me.
- Osborne, Edna Josephine—At Naval Base Hospital, New  
London. Nurse.
- Osborne, Edwin—Boatswain's Mate, U. S. S. Birming-  
ham. Four years in the navy.
- Osborne, Frank Herbert—Co. L, 306th Inf., Pioneers, A.  
E. F. One year and nine months in France.
- Osborne, Lawrence—Private, 16th Supply Train, Motor  
Truck Co., Camp Kearney, California.
- Osborn, Perry Hammond—Mechanic, Battery E. 301st  
Field Artillery, 76th Div., A. E. F. Six months in  
France.
- Pemberton, James L.—U. S. S. Virginia. Two years and  
three months in the Navy.
- Pinson, Henry Irving—Co. A, 312th Machine Gun Bat.,  
79th Div., A. E. F. Eleven months in France.
- Prouty, Lawrence William — Students' Army Training  
Corps, Harvard University.
- Scully, John Joseph—38th Regt., Canadian British Ex-  
peditionary Force. Two years and seven months in  
France.
- Sheehan, Eugene P.—Shoe Unit with A. E. F. One year  
and eight months in France.

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

- Soule, Lawrence—Remount Station, Camp Travis, Texas, then Sergeant Army Reserve Depot, New Cumberland, Pa.
- Spencer, Alvan Gerry—Supply Sergeant, 7th Battalion, Co. D, U. S. A.
- Spencer, Harry L.— 1st Lieut. 101st U. S. Engineers, 26th Div., A. E. F.
- Sprague, Herbert William—Fire Truck and Hose 322d Co., also in Replacement Companies. One year and ten months in France.
- Sproul, Walton Dyer—Sec. 29, 641 U. S. A. A. S. In France 22 months.
- Turner, Harold Melvin—U. S. Naval Reserve with Tufts College Unit.
- Wadsworth, Jerome Ferdinand—Co. A, 73 Replacement Engineers, Washington Barracks, D. C. Six months in the service.
- Weber, Anton—Sergeant Commissary Department, Baltimore, Md.
- Welton, Ruth A.—One year in the Canteen Service in France.
- Westfield, Hugh Everett—U. S. Naval Reserve, Technology Unit.
- Williamson, Charles Mitchell—Mechanic's Mate, U. S. Naval Reserve, U. S. Destroyer Thacher.
- Williamson, George W.—U. S. S. Pittsburg.
- Winslow, Edward Francis—Co. D, 547 Engineers, A. E. F.
- Winslow, James Everett—Co. L, 372d Inf., 93d Div., A. E. F.
- Winslow, Jesse Burden — Stationed at Camps Devens, Humphreys and Camp Merritt.

### State Guard

The following citizens enlisted in Co. A, 14th Regt., M. S. G., for service during the war.

John F. Wilder, Walter C. Barnard, Samuel Olson,

## NORWELL IN THE WORLD WAR

Harry T. Fogg, Joseph F. Merritt, Jerome F. Wadsworth.

Messrs. Wadsworth and Fogg were later in the United States Service.

### World War Welcome Home Day

The following is taken from the Rockland Standard of August 21, 1919:

Norwell gave her soldiers and sailors a right royal welcome last Saturday. Guests were present from all the neighboring towns, and the home people were out in force. All business was suspended and the afternoon given over to festivities. The program opened with a parade at 2 o'clock. In the line were delegations from the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Woman's Relief Corps, Ladies' Aid Alliance, and the American Legion. Public buildings and houses along the line of march were decorated for the occasion.

After the parade there was speaking on the Common, the principal speaker being Gen. Charles H. Cole, who received a most enthusiastic greeting.

The principal event of the celebration was the presentation of medals to all who served in the world war. Chairman Horace T. Fogg presented the medals, and we are indebted to him for a list of the recipients, together with a line telling of the service rendered.

Abbott Brainerd—Unable to enlist because of physical disability. Y. M. C. A. secretary. Overseas 11 months.

Edna Josephine Osborne—At Naval Base Hospital, New London, for duration of war. Her twin brother long in the Naval service.

Ruth A. Welton—Head of the Red Cross in Norwell when we entered the war. Later in France. One year in Canteen service.

Edward Beckman Haskins—Student at Tech. Student Army Corps. But recently a resident of Norwell. He comes of a long line of Scituate ancestry and fighting stock. We welcome him to the home of his forebears.

Percy Hale Howland—Student at Dartmouth College.



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Engineer's Department. Student Army Training Corps, Hanover, New Hampshire.

Harold Melvin Turner—Student at Tufts College. In the U. S. Naval Reserve with Tufts College Unit. Descendant of Lieut. Joshua Jacobs and Colonel Charles Turner, officers in the Revolutionary army.

Lawrence Prouty — Harvard Univ. Students Army Training Camp, also at Plattsburg. Grandson of John H. Prouty of Post 112 G. A. R., whose grandfather fought in the Revolutionary war.

Hugh Everett Westfield—Student Inst. Technology. U. S. Naval Reserve, Technology unit. An adopted son of Norwell and recently a graduate of its High school.

Claude W. J. P. Ainslie—Battery A. 55th Regiment C. A. C. and United States Navy. Still in the service of the U. S. ship Mt. Vernon. His grandfather was a Veteran of the Civil War.

Herbert Austin Lincoln—Enlisted June, 1918, below the draft age, on U. S. Battleship Nebraska, and U. S. Superdreadnaught Florida, 8 months in the service. Of a name famous in American history.

Frederick S. Olson—U. S. Ship Akbar. Naval Training Station, Rockland, Me. Grandson of a veteran of the Civil war.

Edwin Osborne—Boatswain's mate U. S. S. Birmingham; in the Navy for four years, having just completed his term of enlistment. A descendant of Samuel Hyland in the Revolutionary army.

James L. Pemberton—U. S. S. Virginia. Two years and three months in the service. Grandson of a veteran of the Civil war.

Charles Mitchell Williamson—George W. I. Williamson, brothers. The former Mechanics Mate U. S. Naval Reserve, U. S. Destroyer Thacher; the latter on U. S. S. Pittsburgh, a battle cruiser. Of a family of sailors, many of whom saw service in the War of 1812, and the Mexican war.

## NORWELL IN THE WORLD WAR

Francis Ainslie, Jr.—18 Depot Battalion, Co. 8, one month at Ft. Slocum, two months at Camp Vail, New Jersey. Grandson of a veteran of the Civil war.

Chester Ambrose Bell—Wentworth Institute, Co. 8, U. S. Infantry. Of a race made free by America, who have in their turn helped to free the world.

Paul Dean Lewis Briggs—Co. L. 302d Infantry, Camp Devens, at Plattsburg; Co. A, U. S. Guards, Jersey City, N. J., 16 months in the service. A descendant of Benj. Briggs, Jr., who was in Captain Joseph Stetson's Company in the Revolutionary war.

Stuart Rufus Bowker—Quartermaster Corporal, first at Syracuse, three months at Camp Devens. A descendant of families long prominent in West Scituate.

John S. Buswell—Third engineer corps, Canal Zone, Panama. His family no longer resides in Norwell, and there is no one present to represent him.

Samuel Walter Cook—Co. F, 36th Regiment, Regular Army, in service nine months. An adopted son of Norwell, and welcomed to her ranks as our own.

Arthur Russell Damon—in the Navy three years, three months; in the Army, Camp Lynnfield, three months. of Revolutionary ancestry.

Harold Everett—Third Co. 1st Battalion, 157th Depot Brig., Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Ga. His family no longer reside in Norwell, and no one present to represent him.

Frederick Adolph Fredrickson—Of the Plymouth Division, Camp Devens. Born in Sweden. We welcome him an American, and a son of Norwell.

Fred James Harrison—325th Co., Camp Stewart, Newport News, Virginia. An adopted son of Norwell whom we are now pleased to call our own.

Harold Russell Kidder—Troop L., 14th Cavalry, Ft. McIntosh, Texas. Still in the service in Texas, Ft. Logan, Houston. In fact, only soldier still in the service in this country.

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Tony Meranda—Seven months. A native of Cape Verde Island. Of an alien race. He answered the call.

Dana White Morey—25th Coast Artillery, Newport, R. I. One year, six months in the service. No longer a resident of Norwell. Returning for these exercises we bid him welcome.

Lawrence Osborne—16th Supply Train, Motor Truck Company, Camp Kearney, California. His great great great grandfather served in the War of 1812.

Lawrence Soule—A volunteer, below the draft age. At remount station Camp Travis, Texas. Sergeant, Army Reserve Depot, New Amberland, Penna. Admitted to West Point, unfortunately disqualified by defective hearing.

Alvan Gerry Spencer—In the First Draft at Camp Devens. Supply Sergeant 7th Battalion, Co. D. U. S. Guards. Of revolutionary ancestry. An adopted son of Norwell, whom we are proud to call our own.

Jerome Ferdinand Wadsworth—Co. A, 73d Engineers. Of Mayflower stock and Revolutionary ancestry, and an adopted son of Norwell, and a son of whom Norwell is justly proud.

Jesse Burden Winslow — James Everett Winslow, brothers. James Everett W., Co. L, 372d Inf., 93d Div. Grandsons of Richard Winslow, for many years Color Bearer, Post 112 G. A. R.

Edward Francis Winslow—Co. D, 547th Engineers, A. E. F.

Eugene Patrick Sheehan—In the Shoe Unit, A. E. F. One year, eight months in France, and several months himself without shoes, a worker in an indispensable branch of the service to which he gave careful and conscientious attention.

John Wendell Burns, Jr.—Medical Unit, Red Cross Hospital, 21, Peyton, England. For the past six months. Hospital No. 58, Brest, France. A descendant of two soldiers of the revolution.



## NORWELL IN THE WORLD WAR

Harry Briggs Brown—Headquarters Company, 306th Field Artillery, 77th Div., A. E. F., 15 months in France. The grandson of two veterans of the Civil war.

William Henry Brown—Of the Old Co. K, Hingham, Supply Co., 101st Regiment, 26th Division, A. E. F., 13 months in France. Previously on the Mexican Border. A descendant of Jonathan Brown and J. B., Jr. Both Revolutionary soldiers.

Edgar Howard Ellms—Sergeant, Co. B., 18th Regiment, Engineers, A. E. F. One year and 10 months in France. A descendant of Joseph Ellms, a soldier of the Revolution.

Irving Russell Henderson—General Headquarters Company, Coast Artillery at Angers; eight months in France. Born almost on the spot where stood the old Block House of the French and Indian Wars, a descendant of Consider Merritt, a soldier of the Revolution.

Stephen Allen Mott—Headquarters Co., 103d Regiment, 26th Div., A. E. F., ten months in France. A descendant of Sergeant Lawrence Litchfield who responded to the Lexington alarm in Capt. Wm. Turner's first Scituate Company.

Henry Irving Pinson—312th Machine Gun Company, 79th Division A. E. F., 11 months in France, and in active service on the firing line. His paternal ancestor, Simon Pinson, responded to the Lexington Alarm in 1775, in the Company of Capt. Galen Clapp of Scituate.

Frank Herbert Osborne—Co. L., 306th Infantry, 2d Pioneers, A. E. F., one year, nine months in France. Son of a veteran of the Civil war.

Perry Hammond Osborn—301st Field Artillery, 76th Division, A. E. F., six months in France. A descendant of Israel Vinal of the Scituate Committee of Safety in the Revolutionary war. Of good old fighting stock.

John Joseph Scully—38th Regiment, Canadian-British Expeditionary Force, wounded at Cambria, in French hospital in the last battle of the Somme; two years, three



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

months in service. A son of Ireland, he has maintained the fighting traditions of his race.

Herbert William Sprague—Fire Truck and Hose, 322d Company; one year and 10 months in France, in Replacement Companies. Returned in Casual Company 3211. The descendant of two soldiers of the Revolution.

Walton Dyer Sproul—Section 29 and Sec. 641, U. S. Automobile Ambulance Service, with the French Army 22 months. Son of an Englishman as well as a descendant of a Revolutionary soldier he has brought honor and credit to them both.

Arthur De Gainer—39th Infantry, Co. C, 4th Division, A. E. F. A Canadian by birth. Severely wounded in action. Loyal to his homeland as well as the land of his adoption.

Henry Franklin Delano—344th Machine Gun Company 90th Div., A. E. F., 11 months in France. In the Army of Occupation. Brother of Frederic B. Delano.

Frederic Burton Delano—Headquarters Company, 9th Inf., 2d Div., A. E. F., Army of Occupation. Sergeant. Honorable mention for carrying messages through barrage. Oct. 4, 1917 to July 15, 1919, at Verdun, at Chateau Thierry, St. Mihiel offensive, Meuse-Argonne offensive

William Edward Leslie—Of the Yankee Division. First from Norwell to go overseas; first to go into trenches; first to go over the top, and first to be wounded.

Supper was served to the service men and their guests on the Seth Foster estate.

In the evening there was a concert by Milo Burke's orchestra of Brockton, followed by a display of fireworks. The celebration closed with a dance in Fogg's hall.

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### The American Legion, Norwell Post 192

On September 1919, the World War Veterans at the "Welcome Home" exercises took the preliminary steps towards forming a unit of the American Legion. At the





WILLIAM EDWARD LESLIE

First enlisted man from Norwell to go into the trenches, in the World War, first to be wounded. Served with Co. K, 101st Infantry, A. E. F. One who resides elsewhere, but who is always seen here on Memorial Day, in line with Norwell Post, A. L.

## NORWELL IN THE WORLD WAR

first regular meeting in October, Walton D. Sproul was elected Commander, and Alvan G. Spencer, adjutant and finance officer. Commander Sproul resigned after a few months and removed from the state for a time. Mr. Spencer held his offices for five years. Allan C. Virtue was the next Commander and served for three years, 1920, 1921, 1922. He was succeeded by Irving R. Henderson who served during 1923 and 1924, Walter S. Crane Jr., 1925, 1926, 1927; Joseph Sousa 1928; Alvan Spencer from October 1928 to 1930. Herbert A. Lincoln from October 30, 1930 to the following February, when he resigned to become a candidate for town office. Edgar Ellms was Commander for two years and Paul D. L. Briggs succeeded him serving for three years. John D. Murphy served several years.

The Legion was active in having a flag-staff erected on the old high school grounds and when the flag pole at Norwell Center was destroyed by lightning two Legion men, Messrs. Lincoln and Spencer led the drive for funds to replace it.

At the dedication a parade of more than twelve hundred Legion members from this part of the state took part, and through their efforts, United States Senator David I. Walsh, was the guest and orator of the day.

Their first meeting place was the Arts and Crafts building. Later in the James Library hall and later the old District No. 2 school house was offered them. It was thought that these quarters would be permanent, but with the passing of Post 112 G. A. R., it was considered wiser to accept the offer of quarters in the Memorial Hall. They have now been installed there for several years.

Joseph Willard is the present Commander.



## CHAPTER VIII

# NORWELL'S FLAG DAYS

**B**ACK in 1915 the people of the easterly part of the town felt that it would be a good idea to have a flag staff on the Common.

The World War was in progress and while we had not been drawn into it, things were becoming very tense and there was much patriotic fervor among the people.

The Norwell Improvement Association met for the purpose of raising funds and carrying on of the project. Officers and committees were appointed and the following program was arranged:

Percival G. Power, President

Elliott W. Crowell, Treasurer

Herbert E. Robbins, Secretary

NORWELL FLAG DAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1915

### Executive Committee

Horace T. Fogg	Mrs. Joseph C. Otis
Arthur L. Power	Mrs. L. F. K. Howland
Joseph C. Otis	Mrs. Emma H. Bates
Harry T. Fogg	Mrs. Percival G. Power
Percival G. Power	Mrs. George M. Whitcomb
Ernest H. Sparrell	Mrs. Arthur L. Power
Alfred L. Lincoln	Miss Marion G. Merritt
Ranna H. Welton	Mrs. John H. Sparrell
Robert C. Bacon	Mrs. John Whalen
Elliott W. Crowell	Miss Mabel E. Adams
Herbert E. Robbins	Mrs. E. L. Houghton

### Reception Committee

Percival G. Power	Ernest H. Sparrell
Walter R. Torrey	Horace T. Fogg
Arthur L. Power	

## NORWELL'S FLAG DAYS

### Committee on Flag Pole and Flag

Ernest H. Sparrell    Arthur L. Power    Percival G. Power

### Souvenir Program

Harry T. Fogg

### Entertainment Committee

George F. Knowlton, Chairman

Ranna H. Welton	Mrs. John Dixon
Henry C. Ford	Mrs. Emma H. Bates
Howard S. Power	Mrs. John Whalen
George M. Whitcomb	Miss Mabel E. Adams
George Dixon	Mrs. George F. Knowlton
John H. Sparrell	Mrs. George S. Corthell
Jerome F. Wadsworth	Mrs. Joseph F. Merritt
A. Howard Allen	Mrs. William O. Henderson
Joseph F. Merritt	Mrs. Kenneth Atwood
Lyman Wadsworth	Mrs. John F. Wilder
Mrs. John H. Sparrell	Miss Alcina B. Houghton
Mrs. Harry T. Fogg	Mrs. Joseph C. Otis
Miss Alice K. Wadsworth	Mrs. Walter R. Torrey
Mrs. Harry G. Pinson	Mrs. Joseph W. Hatch
Mrs. Henry J. Corthell	

### Press Committee

Walter R. Torrey

Percival G. Power

### Parade at 1 P. M.

Walter T. Osborn, Chief Marshal

### Judges

Joseph C. Otis    Alfred L. Lincoln    William F. Bates

### Parade Committee

John F. Wilder, Chairman

J. H. Lehan	John Dixon	Joseph F. Merritt
John H. Sparrell	Miss Marion G. Merritt	
	Miss Mabel E. Adams	

### Dedication Exercises 2:30 P. M.

Base Ball 3:30 P. M. Kingston vs. Norwell  
Cushing's Field

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Ball Game Committee  
Lawrence Soule                      William A. Williams

Band Concert 7 to 9 P. M. Milo Burke's Band

... DEDICATION EXERCISES ...

### Program

Horace T. Fogg, Presiding

Prayer ..... Rev. Edward L. Houghton  
Music ..... B. Milo Burke's Band  
Welcome ..... Horace T. Fogg, Esq.  
Unfurling of the Flag ..... Henry A. Turner, Esq.  
Singing, Star Spangled Banner ..... Miss Alice Delano  
Oration ..... Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge  
Music ..... B. Milo Burke's Band  
Flag Day Poem ..... Miss Alice K. Wadsworth  
America ..... The audience is requested to sing.

The above program was carried out to the letter and one of the largest gatherings of citizens and prominent officials ever in town were on hand to witness the exercises and listen to the address of the distinguished senator, Henry Cabot Lodge.

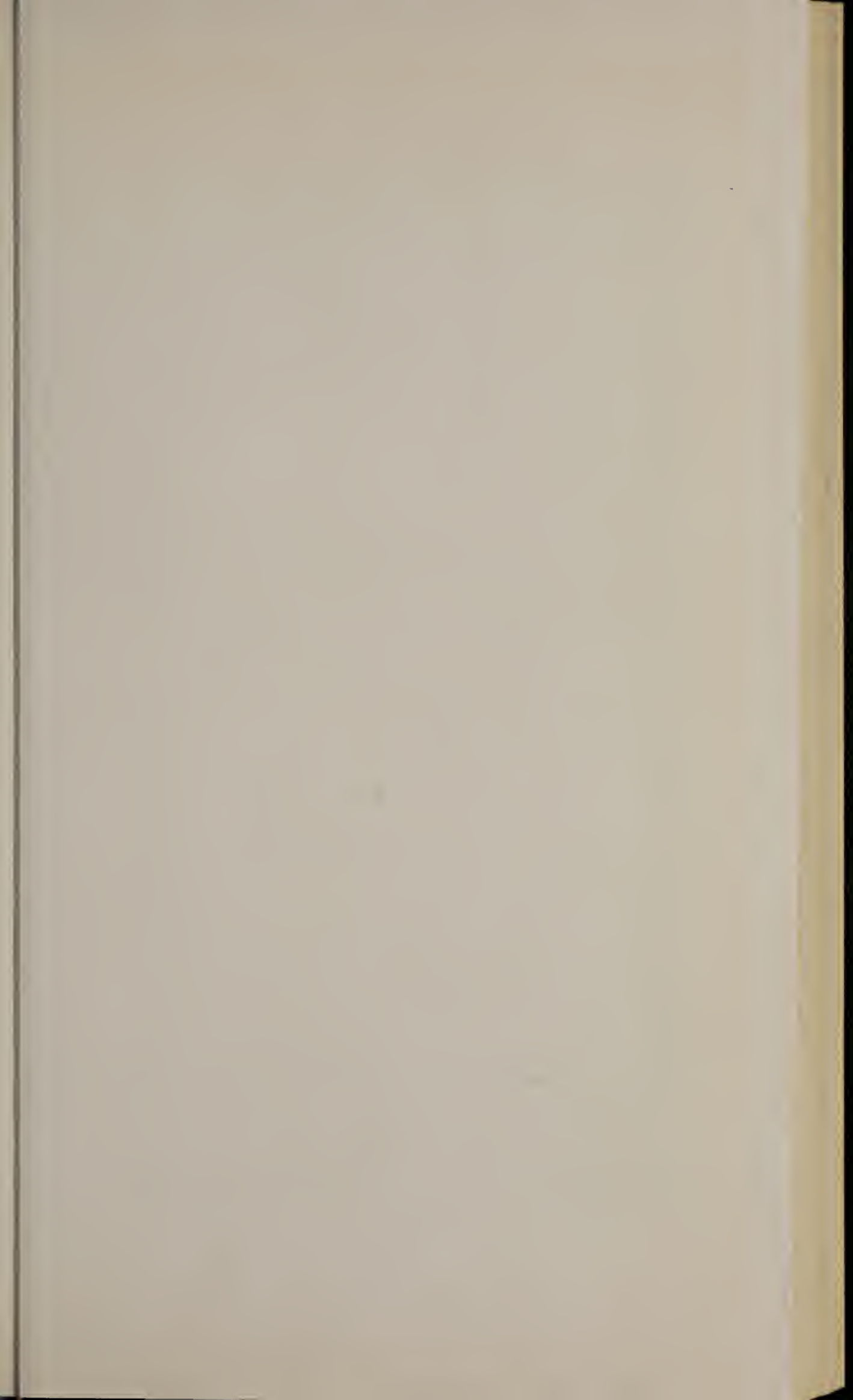
One of the features of the parade was the "old stage coach" which carried the "Grand Army" with its banner inscribed, "This is the way we rode in '61."

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### Norwell's Second Flag Day

When the flag staff on the "Common," after sixteen years of service, was destroyed by lightning in 1931 a meeting was immediately called at the fire house on the "Hill" to see what could be done toward replacing it.

This meeting was attended by a large number of representative citizens and it was voted to replace it immediately by popular subscription. A general committee consisting of Percival G. Power, who was largely instrumental in procuring the former flag pole, Whitman C. Soule and Perry H. Osborn, were chosen to carry this vote into effect. Sub-committees were appointed and subscriptions obtained from the various societies and or-







Norwell Post 192, The American Legion, Escorts Camp 143, Sons of Union Veterans.  
MEMORIAL DAY IN NORWELL, 1938  
(Photograph by James J. Kelly)

## NORWELL'S FLAG DAYS

ganizations in town, and so well was the affair handled, that in a month's time a new flag pole was erected and ready for dedicating.

We quote Mr. George Turner's account in the Hanover Branch, and Norwell Advertiser, and South Shore Life, Nov. 12-13, 1931.

### **Tenth District American Legion Assists In Dedicating Flagstaff November 8, 1931**

The success of the Armistice Sunday observance at Norwell was most assured. It has been a source of much favorable comment.

It was Norwell's great day, last Sunday. No other occasion anywhere in its history has compared with the spectacle which was presented that afternoon when more than 1,000 marchers made their way through the main street, with banners waving, the blare of trumpets and the sharp roll of drums to remind one of the majesty of military hosts and the glory of an honorable peace.

Past the old Soldiers monument and its newer neighbor the World War memorial boulder, the great column moved, to swing at "Copper Corner" and come back up the Hill past the old church, which, for the first time in its history, displayed a flag upon its exterior.

The crowd was a record breaker. Every part of South-eastern Massachusetts was represented, the great showing made by the Legion men from Provincetown at the tip of the Cape being the subject of universal remark and admiration. Cape Cod was largely in the lime-light, the several divisions of what seems to be a co-operative and mammoth drum corps attracting much attention. Harwich and Carver women added much to the parade with their bright uniforms and their fine appearance as drum corps units.

The Norwell Post 192, American Legion, always a consistent worker for the cause, did itself proud. It had a number of men in line and furnished a color guard con-



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE—NORWELL

sisting of Past Commander Alan C. Virtue, Warren G. Ilsley, Schuyler Dillon and Frank H. Osborne.

Entirely through with its experimental stage, the Norwell post Legion band, trained under the direction of Alfred Howes and drilled by Sumner E. Fearing of East Weymouth, came to the front leading the line with dignity, precision and general acceptance. This unit has come along very fast and much credit is due its organizers and the public which has heartily seconded its efforts.

It was pleasing to see so many people come into line with decorations. The display at the High school was worthy, and down the line nearly every home bore some mark of respect for the occasion.

Many houses displayed single flags effectively. All were in good taste. A departure from the conventional in decorations was the featuring of huge eagles upon the speakers stand, also at the residence of E. H. Sparrell, Central street. Every business block bore bunting, rosettes, fans, etc. The house of N. F. D. No. 1 was finely done, and the town farm building was in keeping with the occasion. There were simple pennants on the state patrol barracks, filling the line solidly along the street. The South Scituate Bank building was particularly beautiful and across the Common the telephone headquarters and the James Library added their holiday dress to the picture. It was a scene, not for a day, but one to remember.

Legion posts in line were Rockland, Whitman, Abington, Plymouth, Falmouth, Harwich, Barnstable, Carver, Middleboro, Provincetown, Sandwich, Wareham, Bourne, Hanover, Norwell, Marshfield, Hingham, Scituate, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Hyannis. Legionnaires from many of the other towns were included in the larger outfits. It was said, on good authority, that there was no town in the district, which was not represented by some member, except the towns of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

Arrived at the monument corner of the Common, the

## NORWELL'S FLAG DAYS

guests of the day mounted the speakers stand. A program of some length was condensed through the good judgment of each of the speakers, to a period which did not overtax the endurance of the spectators who felt the chill of the November late afternoon, as the sun dropped.

Representative Ernest H. Sparrell had a great honor conferred upon him as president of the day, and his introductions of the speakers and his explanation of the significance of the occasion were couched in dignified, clear-cut language.

Rev. Alfred J. Wilson, minister of the First church, gave the prayer of dedication. A welcome to the town was extended by Herbert A. Lincoln, of the board of selectmen who spoke expressively concerning the erection of the first flagstaff here when the dark clouds of the World War were hovering over America. "Sixteen years have elapsed," he said, "the World war is history, and the flagstaff is destroyed." "A second monument has taken its place here, sacred to the memory of the veterans of the World war. This flagstaff has been erected as an evidence of our renewing our faith in the greatness of our country."

A second welcome was made by Edgar Ellms, commander of the Norwell Post, American Legion, who extended a most cordial welcome to the visiting comrades of the Legion, thanking them for staging their annual Armistice Sunday convention in Norwell, and for making such a wonderful showing.

Past Commander Alvan G. Spencer, of the Norwell Post was introduced as general chairman of the committee. Mr. Spencer gave a short review of the story of the two flag poles, speaking of that 16 year past dedication as a "gallant day." He showed the process of reconstruction, earnest, efficient and rapid, by which the new staff was raised, only a few days after its destruction by lightning, last September.

George C. Capelle, chairman of the 10th District Council, made one of the best speeches of the day. He said, in



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

part: "The flag is a symbol of freedom. For it tens of thousands of men laid down their lives, for it 1,000,000 Legion men stand ready to enter another war, if need be, and earnest to insist that the nation's means of defense is not reduced to the vanishing point. We dedicate this staff that it may bear aloft Old Glory and that we may give again our honor, love and devotion to the flag of our country."

Mr. Sparrell introduced Waldo Turner, 89 year old Civil war veteran, both as Commander of the Dept. of Mass., G. A. R. and as a native of this town. Commander Turner expressed in a fine presentment his sentiments in coming back to the fine old town which he left as a boy of 17 more than 70 years ago.

Mr. Turner, who resides in East Weymouth, where he is both loved and respected, said:

"It is with the keenest pleasure that I come back to this dear, old town." "Often I think of the beautiful town that is seated by the sea. Often in dreams go up and down the dear old streets of that dear old town. And my youth comes back to me" with this quotation from Longfellow's, "My Lost Youth," Mr. Turner said, "My youth is coming back to me today." He continued by calling attention to the fast fading "thin blue line," the relic of a great army created by 2,000,000 men who sprang to arms under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln. "Traitors attempted to tear seven stars from our flag. We suppressed that crime."

Waldo Turner was born on Winter street in one of the old houses opposite the head of Parker street. He went away from home at the age of 17 and once told the writer that during his youth he never went further south on River street than the Walter Foster place. Such were the limitations of the youths of the old days. But they made wonderful men.

Most impressive was the raising of the colors just as the sunset streaked the west. The brisk breeze sent the flag into picturesque swirls as it gained the top of the

## NORWELL'S FLAG DAYS

staff. The actual and physical raising of the flag was done by Commander Alfred B. Litchfield of the D. Willard Robinson Post, G. A. R., Dept. Commander Waldo Turner of the G. A. R., Dept. Vice Commander Jeremiah L. Lahey of the American Legion and Commander Edgar Ellms of the Norwell Post, American Legion.

The patriotic poem "Your Flag and my Flag," was read with much expression by Miss Esther Whiting, the great granddaughter of a Civil War veteran.

All local members of the Legislature, the guests for the day of the committee and of Representative Sparrell, were present but did not speak. They were called to the front of the stand by Mr. Sparrell and each received a good hand of applause. These men were, Senator Newland H. Holmes of Weymouth; Reps. John Q. Knowles of Hull, Wm. H. McCarthy of Rockland, Wm. A. Brown of Abington and Ira C. Ward of Plymouth.

In introducing Senator David I. Walsh, Mr. Sparrell said that in the old days the visit of a U. S. Senator was not unusual to the town, that the great Daniel Webster was wont to call at the old Nash store and chat with the proprietor and any citizens who chanced to be present. In 1915, Henry Cabot Lodge, the senior senator of Massachusetts, came here and delivered a notable address. Now we are honored by the presence of Senator Walsh, twice the chief executive of the Commonwealth and now serving his third term in the U. S. Senate. He introduced Senator Walsh as one who has always been a man of the people.

Senator Walsh reminded his hearers that all our ceremonies are empty indeed unless they recall the significance of the flag. The flag stands, he said, not for wealth, nor for natural resources, but for human qualities, for great human principles for which men have died, for supreme ideals.

"That flag stands for the rights of the humblest as well as the richest. It stands for justice, not for the few, but for all."

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

The oration of Senator Walsh concluded the exercises, and marked the high point of the day. It was to be noticed that the Senator seemed to be thoroughly impressed by the spirit of the occasion and the climax of his effort was dramatic.

Capt. George Capelle, district commander of the 10th District Council was in charge of the military formation of the line and his aids included Harry Wheeler of Harwich, Clarence W. Piper of Rockland, and John R. Parker of Rockland.

In the wait before the parade started Clark Atwater, a Norwell young man, appeared in a plane from the Boston airport and gave an exhibition of flying stunts which were explained by Wendell Wright, who turned his amplifying outfit which was in readiness for carrying the words of the speakers to every part of the Common, into an impromptu broadcasting station. The effort of Mr. Wright was much appreciated.

The work of the Wright Engineering Company of Rockland was very successful. It was the first big out-door event in Norwell to have the benefit of the device, and this gave every person the chance to hear the addresses in full.

(An unfortunate sequence was the deterioration of this flag staff and its forced removal in 1936.)





CHAPTER IX  
CHURCHES

First Parish Church, Unitarian

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FOR over a hundred years the residents of Norwell Center and vicinity have heard the bell ring out from the steeple of the Unitarian church in that place, and during those years, they have wended their way to worship in the old edifice.

There in that grand old building, the best people of Norwell have worshipped. There, in front of that altar have children been baptized, and the blushing maiden has plighted her troth to the bashful swain. There, have been spoken the words over the remains of the loved ones, who through its portals, have passed to their final resting place in the cemetery beyond.

Standing apart, and still overlooking the busy little village, the edifice is one of the most familiar landmarks in this section of the state. Situated on an eminence, the white church with its green blinds can be seen for miles around, like a star, guiding the wayfarer on his journey.

The South or Second Parish as it was originally called, later the First Parish of South Scituate, was organized in Scituate, February 2nd, 1642.

Its origin resulted from a difference of opinion among the members of the First church as to the mode of baptism. The Rev. Mr. Chauncey, pastor of the First church, would baptize by immersion only. A minority in the society was opposed to immersion, and as they did not receive Mr. Chauncey cordially, he requested them to refrain from appearance at the communion. By the advice



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

of the elders in the colony this minority proceeded to organize a second church.

The first house of worship was small and covered with thatch. It stood on the southeast side of Main street near the top of Wilson Hill. The first minister was William Wetherell, who was ordained as pastor September 2nd, 1645. His record of baptisms commences September 7, 1645, and continued without interruption until March 1684, although the latter entries are not in his own handwriting. These records have been carefully preserved. The first entry is as follows:—

“Anno 1645 Sarah, ye daughter of Wm. Wetherell, Septbre 7.”

He died April 6, 1684. He had been in the ministry nearly 39 years and had administered 608 baptisms. In 1680, Mr. Thomas Mighill came to Scituate as assistant to Mr. Wetherell, but was not ordained until 1685. His ministry was short as he died in 1689.

It was probably in 1680 that the second meeting house was erected. It stood on the hill on the easterly side of Main street about 30 rods north from the road leading to Union bridge. The old burying ground marks the spot. This house stood during the short ministries of Mr. Mighill and Mr. Deodate Lawson. The date of the ordination of Mr. Lawson is not known as none of the records of his ministry have been preserved. His services were undoubtedly unsatisfactory as in September 1698 the society met together to consider their unsettled state caused by the long absence of their pastor.

It was not however until June 14, 1704 that his successor, the Rev. Nathaniel Eells was ordained. It appears that his ministry, covering a period of forty-six years was a peculiarly successful and happy one. He had been here only two years when the society became so numerous that a new house of worship was required, and several parish meetings were held to make plans for the same. It was raised in June, 1707, on a spot not far distant from the present house, on the easterly side of





#### AIRPLANE VIEW OF NORWELL VILLAGE

In a local newspaper, on May 28, 1937, this picture had the title, "What The Airmen Saw," and the comment: "Revealing, inspiring is this sight. The effect is as if we were poised on out-spread wing above the town, a privilege heretofore enjoyed by the swallows, the wild geese, the sea gulls, and other creatures of the Great Alone."

*(Photograph by James J. Kelly)*



## CHURCHES

River street, and facing what is now Dover street. This house stood during the ministries of Mr. Eells, Mr. Dorby and part of Dr. Barnes'.

That the society continued to flourish under Mr. Eells is evident from the fact that in 1738, we find plans are being made to enlarge the meeting house, and finally in 1745, it was voted to add 13 feet to the house and make the same into pews. In 1728, a new parsonage had been built, and although it was not occupied by Mr. Eells it was kept by the society until 1784, when it was sold to Israel Turner for £230. This house was later occupied by Mrs. Maria W. Gaffield and Miss Caroline C. Turner, and is one of the oldest houses in town.

Rev. Jonathan Dorby succeeded Mr. Eells in 1751, but his ministry was very short, as he died in April 1754. He had gone to Hingham to exchange with Mr. Gay and was there attacked with a fever and died, after a few days illness.

Rev. David Barnes first preached in Scituate in June following Mr. Dorby's death, and on the 15th of August received an unanimous invitation to become the pastor of the church. He resided at the parsonage until 1765, when he purchased from the guardian of "Little John" Turner the estate later owned by Horace T. Fogg, Esq., and built the house at present occupied by Mr. Fogg's widow.

In 1770, the old meeting house was torn down, and the fourth house was built on the same site, and during its erection, services were held in Mr. Barnes' house. In building this house, "the undertakers," Deane says "took upon themselves the hazard of profit or loss, and it is well known, were well repaid." The house was not substantially built and was never entirely satisfactory to the members of the Parish. It was taken down in March 1830. In the meantime the Rev. Dr. Barnes had completed his pastorate which extended over a period of fifty-seven years, until 1809, when he retired from his labors, having compounded with his parish for £100.



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE—NORWELL

His ministry was the longest in the history of the church. He was an able preacher, and was very popular throughout a considerable circle of churches, and in 1780 he preached the Dudleian lecture at Harvard College, and in 1788, received the degree of D. D.

But one member of the parish living in 1900 ever attended services in the fourth meeting house. Miss Eliza Nash, when in her 98th year, recalled distinctly the square pews, with benches on two sides and a small seat in the corner for the children, where she was accustomed to sit and look into the gallery, which was then on three sides of the building. There was a canopy over the pulpit, in front of which sat the deacons, facing the congregation. There were red curtains in front of the choir seats which Miss Nash as a young girl helped in making. Dr. Barnes' successor was Rev. Samuel Deane, who was ordained February 14th, 1810. He lived in the house west of Dr. Barnes on Main street. Miss Nash recalled Mr. Deane as a man of commanding presence, an eloquent preacher and fine singer. He was minister of the church until his death. His funeral was largely attended and the procession extended from his house to the residence of Miss Nash. He left a lasting memorial of his interest in the community in his history of Scituate. It was during his ministry that the fifth and present house of worship was erected. William Sparrell was the architect. Christopher Oakman of Marshfield, great grandfather of Mrs. Mary E. Curtis and Ernest H. Sparrell, was the builder. It was raised May 10th; and on October 13, 1830, Mr. Deane preached the dedication sermon in the presence of a very large assembly. On the following day the pews were sold at auction, the prices ranged from \$20.88 to \$129.38.

Nine pews sold for over \$100 each, as follows:

No. 52, Samuel Foster, \$129.38.

No. 51, John Nash, \$129.03.

No. 66, Walter Foster and Elijah B. Turner, \$122.03.

No. 54, Ebenezer T. and Betsey Fogg, \$121.03.

## CHURCHES

No. 69, Lemuel and Nathaniel Turner, \$118.03.

No. 55, Cushing Otis, \$116.50.

No. 53, Elisha Foster, \$115.38.

No. 67, Howard Bowker, \$108.38.

No. 68, Sarah Delano, \$105.38.

The sale was completed in three hours, and the proceeds were \$773 in excess of their appraised value. The organ was a gift from Thomas Otis, Esq., and the clock in front of the gallery from Hon. Cushing Otis. At a parish meeting held March 21, 1831, these gentlemen received a vote of thanks for their "acts of munificence."

It is interesting to note that at the annual meeting held April 2, 1833, Miss Eliza Nash was one of a committee of five young ladies "to oversee and direct the sexton that he keep the meeting house neat and clean the ensuing year."

After the death of Mr. Deane the parish was without a settled minister for two years. At a meeting held September 5, 1836, a call was extended to Rev. Samuel J. May, which was accepted; and he was installed October 26th of that year. He was succeeded by the Rev. William O. Moseley, who was ordained February 15, 1843. In 1848 he was compelled by illness to resign, and Rev. Caleb Stetson received a call as pastor. His term of service covered a period of eleven years and he was followed by the Rev. William A. Fuller, who was installed November 9, 1859. He was here but a few years. During the ministries of Mr. Stetson and Mr. Fuller, the parsonage was the house east of Dr. Barnes' house, later the residence of Mr. Seth Foster. The Rev. Mr. May had lived in the house now owned by Mr. Arthur L. Power. Mr. Fuller's successor was Rev. William H. Fish, who accepted a call from the parish under date of July 17, 1865. His ministry covered a period of twenty years, during which time Mr. Fish labored faithfully and zealously for the well-being of the church and the community.

He closed his pastorate in November, 1885. His interest in the church remained unabated to the time of his

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

death and in his ninetieth year, he preached from the pulpit, which he had occupied so many years.

Since the resignation of Mr. Fish, the following ministers have been connected with the church.

Rev. John Tunis, 1886—1888.

Rev. William H. Spencer, 1890—1891.

Rev. Thomas Thompson, 1891—1901.

Rev. Edward H. Keens, 1901—1905.

Rev. Chester A. Drummond, 1906—1908.

Rev. William E. Ennis, 1908-1911.

Rev. Edward L. Houghton, 1911—1916.

Rev. Howard Charles Gale, 1916—1919.

Rev. Alfred J. Wilson, 1921 to present.

(Much of this chapter quoted from Rockland Standard and Hanover Branch, October, 1905.)

During all these years the church building has stood with but few changes. In 1867, the windows were removed from the west side of the church, and the interior was frescoed and tablets were placed upon the west walls. This was accomplished through the earnest efforts of Miss Emily James. At a later date the old windows on the sides of the church were replaced by large lights of colored glass, and the blinds were removed.

A clock has been placed upon the steeple, a gift from William P. Sparrell and Juliana Sparrell to the memory of their father, William Sparrell.

During the ministry of Mr. Fish, many other noteworthy gifts were received. Among them the bell which hangs in the belfrey, a gift from Miss Abigail T. Otis. She also gave to the parish a two-thirds interest in the present parsonage, the other third was a gift from Mr. Nathan Cushing. The James library was built during this period, its name being in honor of Josiah L. James of Chicago, who made the first contribution for its erection.

The church was entirely renovated in 1929 and the high pulpit of early days was restored. Mr. Horace T. Fogg contributed very generously toward the restoration.







FIRST PARISH CHURCH

Dedicated in 1830, during pastorate of Rev. Samuel Deane, historian of Scituate.

## CHURCHES

### Methodist-Episcopal Church

Just south of Church Hill on River Street, stands the Methodist Church which has, since 1852, served the people of the south part of the town as a community church. A little way back on the hill is the site of the first Episcopal Church in Scituate, which served an earlier generation of worshippers until the society removed to Hanover in 1811. Capt. Zephaniah Talbot was largely instrumental in forming the society and was the first leader.

Meetings were held at the home of Samuel O. and Mary Stetson and later in Union Hall.

The church building was erected in 1852 and dedicated August 28 of that year. This was during the pastorate of Rev. Nathan P. Philbrook. In 1885 the building was raised and a vestry finished off, a gift to the society from Mrs. Betsey B. Tolman. Other gifts were received from members.

The Church is under the jurisdiction of the New England Southern Conference. During the eighty-five years of its existence there have been nearly sixty-five different ministers.

“You stand so pure and white among the trees,  
O little church whose beauty we applaud;  
Designed for worship, full of memories,  
And gloriously reminding us of God.”

—Mrs. Gleason L. Archer

This church has been a center of the social and spiritual life of the people of this town and community; a place where the truth is sought and proclaimed in the interest of finer and nobler living.

The birthplace of the Methodist church is the Samuel Stetson house on Stetson Road, once the John Knapp family residence and now the home of Earl Nash. Here, through the untiring efforts of Mary Kimball Stetson wife of Samuel Stetson, a Methodist class meeting was organized in 1844. For eight years, Mrs. Stetson, Capt.

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Zephaniah Talbot, John Gardner, Katie and Patty Sylvester labored, holding meetings, first in this house, which is a real shrine of memory, then in the schoolhouse on the Common near Church Hill, then in Union Hall, near the schoolhouse, then in happy success in their new church building, which still stands.

Ministers during the past 50 years have been: H. A. Ridgeway, 1887-89; Fred Rounds, 1890; C. O. Kepler, 1891; J. J. Shingler, 1892; C. E. Delamater, 1893; Jerome Greer, 1893-1895; C. H. Williams, 1896; Samuel A. Keen, 1898; O. S. Griswold, 1899; Edwin G. Copeland, 1900-02; C. E. Taylor, 1902-04; F. A. Lamb, 1904; A. H. Smith, 1904-05; R. S. Roberts, 1905-06; A. R. Haislup, 1906-08; W. J. Miller, 1908-09; J. D. Sallee, 1909-11; Rev. Mr. Mesler, 1911-12; J. T. Costain, 1912-14; Rev. Mr. Baumhauser, 1914; Myron O. Insko, 1914-16; C. D. Smith, 1916-18; Floyd Zimmerman, 1918; J. J. Jones, 1918-19; Homer Henderson, 1919; Miron A. Morrill, 1920-24; Wendell J. Clark, 1924; K. Sansaman, 1924; Lawrence Larrowe, 1925-26; Gordon C. Capen, 1926-27; Harvey K. Mousley, 1927-30; John C. Vernon, 1930-32; Rev. Edgar T. Zimmerman, 1933-35; Rev. Albert G. Wiederhold, 1935-36; Rev. Elmer Kimmell, 1937-38.

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### The Universalist Church

Situated within a few rods of the Norwell Hanover town line, the Universalist Society has served both towns equally, in the Assinippi section since it was regularly established and incorporated in 1812 after many years of struggle against the opposition of the Second Parish in Scituate and the Congregational Society at Hanover.

The Second Church was very loth to have so many members secede as they felt that it would weaken their own society financially to lose the taxes these members were obliged to pay toward the support of the church.

There are many entries in the town records of Scituate where people gave up their membership in the Second Church and joined with the Universalist Society.







UNIVERSALIST CHURCH



METHODIST CHURCH

### ERRATA

In the list of recent ministers of the Methodist Church, given on Page 70, the name of Rev. George Andrews, Jr., should have been included.

## CHURCHES

The first building lasted until 1832, when a new one was constructed which was burned in 1893.

The present building was dedicated, May 20, 1894.

Some of the better known ministers have been Rev. John S. Barry, the historian, Rev. Robert L. Killam, Rev. Henry E. Vose, Rev. Melvin S. Nash, Rev. James B. Tabor, Rev. Charles L. Burroughs, Rev. Gertrude Roscoe, Rev. S. R. H. Biggs. The members of the society are proud of the fact that so many of the prominent Universalist teachers have at times preached in their church.

Dr. Hosea Ballou and Mary A. Livermore among them.

The memory of Rev. Melvin S. Nash and his activities for the welfare of this section is still cherished.

The list of the names of the corporators include the names of heads of families who were very active in those days and in some instances whose posterity is still carrying on.

Elisha Barrell, Enoch Collamore, Enoch Collamore Jr., Theophilus Corthell, Joshua Bowker, Benjamin Bowker, Edward Curtis, Joshua Damon, Isaac N. Damon, Elisha Gross, John Gross, William Hyland, James Jacobs, Loring Jacobs, Ichabod R. Jacobs, Stephen Jacobs, James H. Jacobs, Edward F. Jacobs, John Jones, George Litchfield, Charles Jones, Elisha Barrell Jr., Samuel Randall Jr., Charles Simmons, Abel Sylvester, Samuel Simmons, Seth Stoddard, Perez Simmons, Reuben Sutton, David Turner, Charles Tolman, Jonathan Turner, Ebenezer Tolman, Josiah Witherell, Calvin Wilder.

The ministers of the Universalist society have been: David Pickering, Samuel Baker, Abner Kneeland, Elias Smith, Joshua Flagg, Benjamin Whittemore, Robert L. Killam, 1829-1838; Horace W. Morse, 1838-39; John F. Dyer, 1839, 1840; J. R. Burnham, 1840, 1841; John S. Barry, 1841-1844; M. E. Hawes, 1844-45; Horace P. Stevens, 1846-47; Robinson Breare, 1849-1852; Lewis L. Record, 1854-1859; Henry E. Vose, 1859-1866; Edward A. Perry, 1868-1871; James B. Tabor, 1872-1874; Wm. B.

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Shipman, 1874; Jacob Baker, 1875-1877; Augustus P. Rein, 1877-1881; Benjamin F. Eaton, 1883-1885; Cephas B. Lynn, 1887; Rev. S. H. R. Biggs, 1888-1891; Melvin S. Nash, 1891-1900; Charles I. Burroughs, 1900-1903; H. Gertrude Roscoe, 1905-07.

Among the great names with which South Scituate has been so fortunate as to be connected, is that of Rev. John Stetson Barry, who preached here for three years. He was the author of the "History of the Stetson Family" of the "History of Hanover," and more than that, of the "History of Massachusetts." Says the more recent history of Hanover of this fine figure in local life, "His History of Hanover is still the model for town histories everywhere and his history of Massachusetts opened to the eyes of the world the riches of the manuscript of Bradford History." (It was due to a note in Mr. Barry's book and to some conclusions drawn there-from, that the existence of the long-lost American document was discovered in the library of the Bishop of London. It was returned to America and is now in the Massachusetts State library.)

The service of Rev. Melvin S. Nash, who left a promising career as a school teacher to take up the work of this small parish, was characterized by great self-sacrifice and earnest work on the part of both pastor and people. It was a happy era in the life of the church and a great build-up came at this time. The old church, built in 1832, was burned on June 21, 1893, but a new structure, the present, was built and dedicated in less than a year, the actual date being, May 20, 1894.

Rev. William D. Veazie, had a meteoric career in the leadership of this parish during 1922-25. His was the impetuous energy which visualized a big Community House on the hill beside the church and the men of the church united as rarely before in helping their pastor to carry out his plans, which finally came to naught.

For some years Rev. Clarence L. Eaton, of Weymouth, served this church in connection with his other duties



## CHURCHES

near home. A very small group of the faithful kept the society alive during some very quiet years.

A new element came into the old church in 1933 with the coming of Rev. Milton S. Dawes, a student who attracted both young and old to his congregation and infused a spirit of animation into the society. With some fellow students from Gordon college, he conducted a revival of some force and response during the winter of 1934-5.

Rev. E. Hartwell Daley worked hard here for two years and built up a system of parish calls and manifested an apostolic faithfulness which might well serve as a model in other places. His pastorate covered the years of 1935-7. Rev. Albert Q. Perry succeeded him.

This last trio of pastors has been composed of young men and the society has taken on new life. The church has been a community center and many pleasant social occasions have been featured. The devotional services have also been of a high order and the church interior has been beautifully restored and decorated, while the exterior has also been cared for. The Universalist parish has shown its innate vitality and is destined to survive.





## CHAPTER X

# SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### D. Willard Robinson Relief Corps

**T**HE D. Willard Robinson Relief Corps No. 13, Auxiliary of Post 112, G. A. R., was organized May 6, 1885, at Assinippi Hall. They continued to meet there for a time, later at the home of Mrs. Frank Alger and other members. Still later they were at the Town Hall.

In 1891 they met in the hall, which the Post had just acquired, until it was lost in 1897. In 1900 it was voted to build a hall. The Webster Cushing shop on High Street, was purchased of Mrs. Cushing and made over by Fred H. Curtis, into a hall and meeting place for the Post. It has been their home ever since.

In every way the Corps has been of great help and has borne the full expense of the hall. For years it was their custom to furnish dinners at the annual town meetings also to entertain the Post and their guests on Memorial Days.

Now that the last member of the Post is dead, the Frederic H. Curtis Camp, Sons of Union Veterans, The American Legion and the Boy Scouts are, as it were, the guests of the Relief Corps who are still carrying on. A special corporation, The D. Willard Robinson Hall Association, has been set up to care for the property.

### Arts and Crafts Society

Back in 1907 the ladies of the village formed a society which they called the Norwell Arts and Crafts Society. Mrs. Mary L. F. Power was the first president and Rev. Chester A. Drummond, Instructor.

The purpose of the society was to do handicraft work,

## SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

weaving raffia and painting china. They purchased the building belonging to Harry S. Merritt on Main Street, which they enlarged, and for several years the society was very prosperous and added to the social life of the community.

There were twenty-five members when it was finally voted to disband and sell the property. John H. Sparrell purchased the building in 1927, and for several years the post office has been located there and the law office of Herbert A. Lincoln.

### Ladies Aid Societies

For many years there has been a Ladies Aid Society connected with the First Parish Church, which has been a great factor in the social welfare work of the community.

There is no good cause or worthy object concerning the church or the townspeople as a whole, to which they have not contributed very generously, both in service and money. For some years they have been associated with the National Ladies Aid Alliance and are still very active.

The Ladies Aid Society connected with the Methodist Church, is the same story repeated. While it is, we believe, not quite so old as the one on the "Hill," yet it has been fully as active and to it the church owes almost its very existence.

The Sewing Circle connected with the Universalist Church has, like the other two societies, been a great help to the church and neighborhood.

### Boy Scouts

A Boy Scout Patrol was organized in 1917 with Rev. Howard Charles Gale as Scoutmaster. Their meetings were held in James Library hall. After a few years it was disbanded.

In 1930 another Troop was formed with Walter S. Crane, Scoutmaster. They met in the vestry of the Methodist Church.

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

At the present writing there is a strong, well organized troop. The Town Committee is Herbert A. Lincoln, chairman; Irving Henderson, John Murphy, Horace Ross and Basil Neftel. The troop is recruited to thirty-five members. Basil Neftel is Scoutmaster and Henry Farr, Assistant Scoutmaster.

### **Woman's Republican Club of Norwell**

This association was formed a dozen years ago, and is both political and social in its functions. It has a membership of over two hundred and fifty women from this and neighboring towns and has been very active. At their monthly meetings many prominent speakers have been heard. It is one of the largest organizations of its kind in this section.

### **The Young Ladies' Union**

On December 7, 1891, the young ladies of Norwell village organized a society called the Church Helpers. Miss Mattie W. Torrey was the first president. They met at the James Library Hall and helped in the social work of the church and village. October 12, 1892 the name was changed to The Young Ladies Union, the name by which it is best remembered today. Mrs. Elizabeth W. Otis became the next president, serving several years. She was followed by Miss Marion G. Merritt, who served six years, until the society disbanded. Mrs. Mary L. Power, Mrs. Nellie M. Sparrell, Miss Sarah E. Merritt and Miss Winnie Tileston were the secretaries. Miss Mary Turner and Miss Effie Croning were the treasurers. During the life of the organization it was very active in the social life of the community. On December 24, 1902, it was voted to disband and that their piano and other property be turned over to the James Library for the use of the Parish.

### **Village Improvement Societies**

About thirty-five years ago improvement societies were



## SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

organized at both Norwell Center and Church Hill. Their object was to set out trees along the roadsides and to do what could be done to make the villages more attractive.

The one at the "Hill" disbanded some years ago, after doing much good work, but the Church Hill society is still very active. It has acquired the school building at Dist. No. 7 which the town had ceased to use for school purposes and its members have converted it into a hall with a very good stage. Many entertainments and social affairs are held there.

### Coaching Parades

July 5th, 1897, Miss Jenny Cushing organized and carried out a coaching parade at Norwell that attracted a crowd such as the town had never before seen. It was such a success and the townspeople were so enthusiastic that another was staged the next year. This was likewise very successful.

### Visiting Nurse Association

The District Nursing Association of Norwell was organized in 1920 as a volunteer association of the townspeople to work in conjunction with the school nurse and public health nurse in caring for the health of the community. It has always paid toward the salary of the health nurse an amount in addition to what is paid by the town, and also something toward the expense of the dental clinic.

It has borne the burden of financing and caring for many cases that could not be readily handled otherwise. By this system of co-operation the town enjoys the privilege of a very efficient health organization.

Mrs. Amy W. Sylvester was the first president and Mrs. Henry D. Atwater is the present. Mr. James H. Barnard is treasurer of the association. There have been three health nurses, Mrs. Marian Sauer, Mrs. Mary E. Bache and Miss Catherine Roe, who has served for fourteen years.



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

### Parent Teachers Association

The Parent Teachers Association was organized in 1934 with Paul Molloy, president and Mrs. Fred R. Burnside, secretary. It has a good membership and is very active. James A. Liddell is president and Mrs. Sanford Luce is secretary.

### Norwell Fire Department

The Norwell Fire Department really dates from the year 1921. Mr. Arthur Coombs, the Forest Warden at the time, took a very active interest in fire prevention and presented the town with a piece of motor driven fire apparatus, which for a while was housed in the shed connected with the town farm.

In a short time there were two volunteer fire companies formed, and a fire house built next to the location of the new Memorial Town Hall and another on Washington street. In the past few years these companies have been very active. A firemen's association was also organized and the ladies have an auxiliary association.

From this small beginning, the town now has four pieces of motor apparatus including a large Maxim pumper.

The general supervision is under a board of engineers. The present Chief is John T. Osborn, and Frederick H. Hall, is Deputy Chief.

Board of Engineers: John T. Osborn, James A. Liddell, Chas. N. Williamson, Lionel D. Forkey, Edward B. Haskins.

### The Union Athletic Association

This association was formed as a social and athletic club. It owns and controls the old Ridge Hill Grove, which includes a ball field, dancing pavilion and club house.

This location has been used as an amusement park for the past forty years. During that time countless associa-





STETSON HOMESTEAD,  
off Stetson Road, Church Hill. This house, built about 1770, is owned  
by the Stetson Kindred of America, Inc.



ANCIENT CRADLE  
Stored at Stetson Homestead. In it were rocked two sets of Stetson  
twins, born 1761 and 1771.  
*(Photo by Charles L. Gleason of Hanover)*



## SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

tions have held meetings and conventions there and many celebrated speakers have been heard. It is practically half way between Brockton and Nantasket and in the days of the electric cars was much frequented by the young people. In later times many famous ball teams have met on the diamond. The association usually has both a baseball and basketball team in their season. Mr. Charles H. Pike is president.

### Norwell Historical Society

In the fall of 1935 a group of people who were interested in the local history of Norwell met and organized the Norwell Historical Society. The society has held some very interesting meetings and has listened to a number of prominent speakers.

Its policies have been defined as follows:

The purpose of the Society is to promote knowledge, by discussion and research, of the locality now known as the Town of Norwell, and to encourage the preservation of documents or relics of local history.

The officers of the society have been: President, Joseph F. Merritt; vice president, Henry C. Ford; secretary-treasurer, Miss Margaret Crowell; executive committee, Joseph F. Merritt, Henry C. Ford, Margaret Crowell, Grace F. Cole, Tenney L. Davis, I. Austin Lincoln, Mary L. F. Power, Herbert E. Robbins, Maria W. Tolman, George C. Turner, William Gould Vinal, Nellie L. Sparrell.

The publication committee has caused to be printed in pamphlet form several articles of special interest, by the members of the society, so that they may be preserved, and eventually be published in book form.

The society had a part in the dedication of the Cushing Memorial Hall, Nov. 2, 1936.

Dr. L. Vernon Briggs gave an evening's talk on Shipbuilding; Dr. Tenney L. Davis has spoken on Count Rumford; Col. Charles W. Furlong has spoken on, Early Recollections of Scituate and Professor Arthur S. Dewing



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

gave an illustrated talk on Early Colonial Houses; Dr. Wm. G. Vinal has talked on "Old Times at Mt. Blue."

At the time of Scituate's Ter-centenary celebration, in 1936, this society was given the honor of entertaining those who made the historical pilgrimage at the Chittenden Shipyard on North River.



## CHAPTER XI

# CEMETERIES

### Washington Street Cemetery

**T**HE town cemetery was established by vote of the town in 1892. It is located on Washington Street and is commonly known as the Washington Street Cemetery.

The earliest burial place in town was at the top of Wilson Hill, near the location of the first church building of the Second Society of Scituate. This was used only a short time. There were only a few stones and there is now no way of telling just where they were. The Elder Thomas King stone was found by Mr. George C. Turner back in 1898. It was dated 1691. When the society moved to a new location, one half mile further west, another cemetery was laid out. This is still enclosed and is kept in good repair by the parish. The oldest stone is that of William Barrell 1689 and the families of Oakman, Turner, Foster, Hatch, James, Randall, Tilden, Stockbridge and Sylvester were buried there.

### First Parish Cemetery

In 1725 the Town of Scituate set aside a tract of land on "Herring Brook Hill," for the use of the Second Parish for a burying ground, a training field and other special uses. This burying ground has been in use since that time. It was incorporated in 1908 under the name of The First Parish Cemetery Association of Norwell.

At the same time the town set aside the land on "Herring Brook Hill" they set aside other land at "Church Hill" for practically the same purpose. A burying ground was established on the brow of the hill near where the Episcopal Church was located and early generations of people in that section of the town were buried there.

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

### Church Hill Cemetery Corp.

In 1921 the Town of Norwell voted to give a quitclaim deed of such portion of its land at "Church Hill" as was contained in a plan prepared by Harrison L. House C. E., to the Church Hill Cemetery Corporation. This corporation was made up of people whose ancestors were buried on the hill and who were interested in preserving and caring for the spot. This included the site of the Episcopal church.

### Pinehurst Cemetery

Nearly one hundred years ago the people living in the "Church Hill" district procured a piece of land from the Howland property on the north side of Common Avenue, and established a burying ground. In recent years it has been incorporated and is now called Pinehurst Cemetery. John W. Queen is now the president.

### Other Cemeteries

The Stockbridge cemetery on Mount Blue Street at junction of School and Mt. Blue streets, was the burial place of the Stockbridge, Litchfield, Hyland and Williamson families.

There is a small burial lot located on the old Collamore Estate on Washington Street, near Jacob's Pond.

Back in the woods off Grove Street near Prospect Street is a little burial plot where some of the early Damons, Sylvesters and Browns were buried. Tradition speaks of the graves of the Northey family near the corner of Grove and Prospect Streets.

Early generations of Bowkers and other families were buried on Bowker Street in a little forgotten burial lot near the Grove Street end.

On the old "Wanton Estate" off River Street, now the homestead of Dr. Marshall Bailey, there was in early times a little cemetery where the Wantons, Webbs, and Rogers were buried. This was always known as the "Old Quaker Burying Ground." Eighty years ago there

## CEMETERIES

is said to have been several stones standing, but today the only one which Dr. Bailey has been able to preserve is that of "Mary Webb, ye wife of Edward Webb of Boston, died ye 23d, 8 mo. 1708."

In early times it was a common custom for people to have burial lots and tombs on their own estates, where members of the family were buried. The Daniel Otis estate on Pleasant Street, the John Cushing tomb on Central Street, the Consider Merritt on Summer Street, the Church tomb at Church Hill, were some of them. This practice is no longer lawful and has been entirely done away with. In many instances the old tombs have been removed and the remains buried in public cemeteries.





## CHAPTER XII

### TOWN OFFICERS

#### MEMBERS of the LEGISLATURE, PHYSICIANS

**S**OUTH Scituate and Norwell men who have served in the Legislature:

James Southworth	1851-52	William C. Litchfield	1879
Samuel C. Cudworth		Ebenezer T. Fogg, Senator	
	1853-54		1880-1881
A. E. Stetson	1855	Alpheus Thomas	1882
Henry J. Curtis	1856	Charles A. Litchfield	1885
Horatio N. Gardner	1857	Henry A. Turner	1888
Lemuel C. Waterman		Thomas Barstow	1892
3rd District	1858	Lloyd F. Hammond	1896
Isaac Totman Jr.	1860	Charles N. Gardner	
Seth H. Vinal	1862		1901-1902
Samuel Tolman Jr.	1864	Joseph F. Merritt	1911
Edward Southworth	1866	William D. Turner	1912
Edward Stowell	1869	Ernest H. Sparrell	
Thomas B. Waterman	1872	Constitutional Convention	
George H. Torrey	1875		1917
Joseph T. Hartt	1876	Ernest H. Sparrell	1921-36

Mr. Sparrell enjoys the distinction of the longest term of service of any Representative in this part of the State and has served on many important committees.

Men who served in the Legislature from Scituate before the division of the town, who lived within the limits of the present town of Norwell:

John Cushing	Micah Stetson
Benjamin Stetson	Samuel Tolman Jr.
Nathaniel Clapp	John Collamore
Thomas Bryant	Cushing Otis

## TOWN OFFICERS

Caleb Torrey	Samuel A. Turner
Nathaniel Cushing	William James
William Turner	Ebenezer Stetson
Edward F. Jacobs	Paul Litchfield

### Town Clerks

During the eighty-nine years of its existence as a separate town there have been only five town clerks:

James Southworth 1849-50-56; Henry J. Curtis 1851-54; Ebenezer T. Fogg, 1855 and 1857 and continuously to 1895, a total of forty years. Joseph C. Otis 1896-1902; Joseph F. Merritt, 1902, to the present time.

Ernest H. Sparrell, Henry J. Corthell and Alice C. Merritt have each served as assistant town clerks.

### Treasurers

George H. Torrey	1849-1850
Ebenezer T. Fogg	1851-
Walter Foster	1852-1860
Ebenezer T. Fogg	1861-1897
Horace T. Fogg	1897-1909
Joseph F. Merritt	1909-1915
Herbert E. Robbins	1915 to the present time

### Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of Poor and Public Welfare

Ebenezer T. Fogg	1830-50-58
Samuel Tolman	1849-50
Loring Jacobs	1849-50
Horatio N. Gardner	1851-57
Lemuel C. Waterman	1851-57
Alfred C. Litchfield	1851-56
James P. Briggs	1857
Luther Howland	1858
Nathaniel Clapp	1858-59
Samuel Tolman, Jr.	1859-67
James J. Farrar	1860
William Hatch	1859-60

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

John Clapp	1863-64-65
Liba Litchfield	1864-68
Dexter M. Wilcutt	1865-67
George K. Cushing	1868
Edward Stowell	1867-71-74
William B. Pratt	1868-69
Charles A. Litchfield	1870-89
Thomas B. Waterman	1871-76
Fred H. Curtis	1876-81
William C. Litchfield	1877-78
Charles H. Merritt	1879-80
Henry A. Turner	1881-83-88
Richard P. Briggs	1882-87
Charles Simmons	1884-87
Charles C. Young	1888-89
Thomas Barstow	1889-99
George W. Griggs	1890-1904
Alpheus Thomas	1890-1908
Henry D. Smith	1900-03
Ezra E. Stetson	1904-1916
Ernest H. Sparrell	1905-07
William D. Turner	1908-15
Frank W. Jones	1909-19
Edward M. Sexton	1915-32
Lothrop E. Fessenden	1916-20
William J. Leonard	1919-35
George M. Currier	1920-22
Clifton S. Deane	1923-1930-1932 to present
Herbert A. Lincoln	1931 to present
Ralph H. Coleman	1935 to present

### List of persons who have served as School Committee:

Rev. Caleb Stetson	1849-52-55-56-57
Perez Turner, 2nd	1849
Dr. A. Everett Stetson	1850-51-53
Ebenezer T. Fogg, Sr.	1850
Rev. Robinson Breare	1851-53
Lemuel C. Waterman	1849-52-54







**JACOBS HOMESTEAD, ASSINIPPI**  
Beside Jacobs Pond, House, barns, stone walls of estate, etc., constitute a very fine example of the old New England farm.



**JACOBS MILL, ASSINIPPI**  
Built before 1727, by David Jacobs. This structure, remembered by many, was burned July 4, 1920, through the acts of careless celebrators

## TOWN OFFICERS

James Southworth	1853-59-60
Seth H. Vinal	<b>1853</b>
Henry Barnes	1855
Mr. Record	1855-56
T. H. Dearing	1857-58-59
Daniel E. Damon	1857-58
Isaac Totman, Jr.	1859-60-61
David B. Ford	1855-59-60
Isaac Totman, Jr.	1861
Elisha Jacobs	<b>1863</b>
Samuel Waters	1868-69
Rev. William H. Fish	1869-70
Miss Lucy Turner	1870-79
James B. Tabor	1873-75
Charles A. Litchfield	<b>1873-75</b>
Mrs. Emily T. Jacobs	1875-76-81-87
Mrs. Helen L. Fogg	1875-78
Franklin Jacobs	1877-83
S. S. Knapp	1880-81
Miss Caroline C. Turner	1879
Joseph T. Hartt	1881
Ebenezer T. Fogg	1882-87
Miss Martha W. Brooks	1885
Samuel Tolman	1886-88-89-90
Mrs. Mary J. Turner	1887
Mrs. Mary E. Curtis	1888-92-1903-12
Miss Hattie R. Gardner	1888-91
Rev. S. R. H. Biggs	<b>1890</b>
Israel Hatch	1891-1902
Frederick Boyden Jacobs	1892-94
Dr. Harry J. Little	1893-95
Benjamin Loring	1895 to present
Miss Marion G. Merritt	1896-98
Mrs. Mary L. F. Power	<b>1899-1902</b>
George C. Turner	1903-14
Miss Carrie M. Ford	1913-14
Mrs. Amy W. Sylvester	1915-17
Mrs. Nellie L. Sparrell	1917 to present
Mrs. Grace B. V. Dinsmoor	1927-33

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Mrs. Gertrude L. Dyer	1933-36
John M. Lind	1936 to present

### Tax Collectors

George H. Torrey	1849-50
Ebenezer T. Fogg	1851
Walter Foster	1852-60
Ebenezer T. Fogg	1861-64
James L. Litchfield	1885 elected but resigned
Andrew J. Litchfield	1885-1889
Edwin A. Turner	1890-1900
Andrew J. Litchfield	1901-09
Frank W. Jones	1909 by appointment
Walter T. Osborn	1910-11
William H. Spencer	1912-32
William H. Dunbar	1932-34
Lloyd S. West	Nov. 24, 1934-March 9, 1935 by appointment
Alfred H. Prouty	1935 to present

### Auditors

For a number of years it was the custom for the voters at the annual town meeting to choose a committee to settle with the treasurer and there was no auditor.

The following persons have held the office of Auditor:

Elisha Jacobs	Elliott W. Crowell
Williams B. Brooks	Harry T. Fogg
Frank W. Jones	Francis J. Knowlton
Charles A. Litchfield	Lloyd S. West
George Cushing	Schuyler Dillon
James H. Pinkham	

The office was abolished after January 1, 1936 and office of Town Accountant established. Schuyler Dillon and Kenneth Torrey have served as accountants.

### Moderators

From early times to be the moderator of the annual







**SECOND TOWN HALL OF SOUTH SCITUATE**

Built in 1885, near the geographical center of the town.  
Burned December 20, 1935

## TOWN OFFICERS

town meeting, has been considered a position of great honor requiring persons of special fitness.

Among the earliest moderators were:

Hon. William James, Albion Turner Esq., Ebenezer T. Fogg, Esq., Col. John Collamore, Nathaniel B. Clapp, Anson Robbins, Loring Jacobs, Lemuel C. Waterman, George H. Torrey.

The veteran, Samuel Tolman presided at the meetings for many years and Edward Stowell, Horatio N. Gardner, Thomas J. Tolman, William Hatch, John K. Nash, Willard Torrey and Joseph T. Hartt, Sylvanus Clapp, Frank W. Jones and John H. Crocker also served. Alpheus Thomas presided continuously for twenty-eight years and was succeeded by John Whalen who served for seventeen years, until his death in 1927.

The later moderators were Horace T. Fogg, Esq., James H. Barnard, Harry B. Pinson and Cecil E. Whitney, Esq.

In the old days the meetings were often stormy and the moderator had a difficult task to keep the voters within bounds. Vilification was indulged in to a greater or lesser degree, and he was often obliged to use all his power and diplomacy to keep the meeting on an even keel and to preserve a certain amount of decorum in the deliberations.

### Highway Surveyors

For some years there were twenty highway surveyors. Later there were eight, still later seven, one for each school district. In more recent times the policy has been to have three, and since 1910 there has been one. Among the more recent incumbents are: Richard P. Briggs, Arthur B. Chamberlin, Benjamin P. Foster, Francis E. Henderson, Walter Simmons, Carlton O. Litchfield, Edwin E. Jacobs, Timothy Sheehan, John W. Burns, Joseph H. Hatch, Joseph Briggs, Lloyd Frank Hammond, Emanuel P. Joseph, Walter T. Osborn, Perry H. Osborn.

During the ten years Mr. Norwell was contributing

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

toward the upkeep of the roads, he was chosen a road commissioner or surveyor and delegated a substitute to represent him.

### Tree Wardens

The following gentlemen have served as Tree Wardens :

John Corthell	Fred M. Curtis
John H. Sparrell	John T. Osborn

### Board of Health

The Selectmen formerly acted as a Board of Health.

In 1892 Dr. Harry J. Little was added to the Board.

In 1896 he was elected for three years, Melvin Little for two years and Alpheus Thomas for one year.

The custom has continued to the present time and the following people have served :

Dr. Frederic D. Lyon	George C. Turner
Clifton S. Deane	Frederic H. Kidder
Francis E. Henderson	Rev. Henry D. Dix
Edward W. Gardner	Ernest H. Sparrell
Minot Williamson	John F. Wilder
Lyman Wadsworth	Mrs. Mary B. Shattuck
Joseph F. Merritt	Horace D. Gaudette

### Registrars of Voters

In September 1884, Seth Foster, John H. Prouty and Charles W. Tilden were appointed a Board of Registrars. Ebenezer T. Fogg, by virtue of his office as Town Clerk was Clerk of the Board.

Since that date the following have served as Registrars :

Charles H. Merritt, Joseph C. Otis, Clerk; Edward M. Sexton, Ezra E. Stetson, Arthur T. Stoddard, Wm. H. Appleford, Harold E. Stetson, Henry J. Tolman, Charles A. Berry, William O. Sexton, Joseph F. Merritt, Clerk; Jeremiah H. Lehan, William O. Prouty, Harry G. Pinson, Edward B. Haskins.







#### TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

Formerly the home of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Corthell and later of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Turner. The new exchange, opened in 1936, is a model for a town of moderate size.

*(Photograph by courtesy of New England Tel. and Tel. Co.)*

## TOWN OFFICERS

### Advisory Board

In 1922 the Town voted that the selectmen appoint an advisory board consisting of nine non-office holding taxpayers to serve without pay, to investigate and consider all financial propositions or articles to be brought before the town and to report or advise thereon in open town meeting before action by the town. A set of by-laws to govern the board was adopted in 1923.

Since that date the following men have served on the board:

Horace T. Fogg	Alan C. Virtue
E. Lincoln Wood	George H. Wilder
John H. Gutterson	William D. Jacobs
James H. Barnard	W. Wallace Farrar
Charles W. Thomas	Jared A. Gardner
Henry C. Ford	Dr. Marshall H. Bailey
George M. Currier	Fred R. Burnside
Henry D. Smith	Albert L. Sylvester
G. Otis Rogers	Albert L. Sylvester Jr.
Frederic C. Haskins	A. Lester Scott

### Town Seal

The first Town Seal was adopted on March 6, 1899, during the time Mr. Joseph C. Otis was Town Clerk. It consisted of a two masted shallop on the stocks and was from a design made up in the Secretary of State's office.

May 11, 1925, at a Special Town Meeting, it was voted to add to the legend of the Town Seal the names and dates, Scituate 1636, South Scituate 1849, Norwell, 1888. Mr. Wm. J. Leonard of the Board of Selectmen was the committee to revise the seal. He submitted a design with a pinkie on the stocks, a vessel similar to the one on the original seal and the added legend. This was adopted and is in use today. The type of vessel shown was built and used in this section from about 1780 to 1820 as fishing vessels. It was taken from a model made by Joseph Merritt about fifty years ago.



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

### Physicians

Notwithstanding the fact that during the past twenty years we have numbered among our summer residents, several physicians and surgeons, there has been no regular resident physician practicing in town, until recently.

Among the earlier doctors of Scituate who lived and practiced in this part of the town were:—

Dr. Isaac Otis as early as 1719, Dr. James Otis, Dr. Cushing Otis, Dr. Ephraim Otis, Dr. Freeman Foster, all of whom were natives of Scituate, and Dr. Milton Fuller. Dr. Foster was still in the saddle when the new town was formed as he did not die until 1863, at the age of eighty-six.

Since 1849 the following gentlemen have practiced here:

Dr. A. Everett Stetson who was here in 1850 and lived on Main Street.

Dr. T. H. Dearing was here for a few years from about 1853 and lived on Central Street. He removed to Braintree.

Dr. Nathan P. Brownell came here from Vermont. He practiced until his death in 1885. He lived at the corner of Main and Winter Streets.

Dr. Harry J. Little settled here in 1886. He practiced until 1913 when he removed to Los Angeles, Cal., where he died, October 15, 1935. He was a member of the Board of Health for many years and of the School Committee for a time. He was born in Springfield, Vermont and was a graduate of Boston University Medical School.

Dr. Frederick D. Lyon settled in the west part of town in 1912. He was there three years. He was elected a member of the Board of Health in 1914. He resided on Oak Street. He was born in Clinton, Mass.

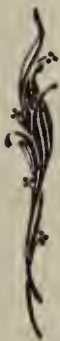
Dr. Hayward W. Cushing had been a citizen of the town for many years at the time of his death. Dr. Marshall H. Bailey on retiring from practice in Cambridge became a year round resident. Col. J. D. R. Woodworth

## TOWN OFFICERS

of the Medical Corps U. S. A., holds a residence here. The Cushing O. Briggs place on Cross Street has been the summer home of Dr. Arthur R. Kimpton for a number of years. Dr. Frederick S. Burns is on Main Street.

Dr. Raymond G. Vinal a graduate of Boston University Medical School, located in town as a practicing physician, July 15th, 1937. His father, Prof. William Gould Vinal is a native of Norwell and Dr. Vinal had spent some of his boyhood days and received some of his early schooling here.

His father, Professor Vinal, still maintains his summer residence here.





## CHAPTER XIII

# FORESTS, HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES AND LANDINGS, CENSUS

ACCORDING to the State Forester's report for 1918, the total acreage of the town was 13,653 divided as follows:

Forest land, pine, oak and maple .....	10,475
Tillage and hay .....	2,443
Pasture .....	211
Residential .....	89
Water .....	51
Cranberry bog .....	13
Marsh .....	371

Today these figures have probably changed. The residential acreage has without doubt, increased very much and the tillage and hay land has diminished. The amount of wood land remains about the same.

In the great storm of November 27, 1898, there was a large amount of heavy growth white pine uprooted and overturned and for the next five years the local mills and the portable steam mills that were brought into help, were very busy in working it up, several million feet being marketed.

The gypsy moth plague of twenty years ago killed out most of the heavy growth oak, and the fine cedar swamps of early times have been nearly all cut off. There is much young growth pine at present, but with the changed conditions there is little call for pine lumber and very little promise for the near future. The market for maple and oak wood is also very light. This has worked quite a hardship on the small land owners who depended on the sale of wood and lumber to help out.

## FORESTS, HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, ETC.

A few years ago some of the landowners adopted the practice of setting out waste and cut over lands to lumber bearing trees, and the town appointed a Forestry Committee and made a small appropriation each year to reforest such land, as was acquired by tax sale and was suitable for the purpose to be known as a Town Forest.

The late Mr. Horace T. Fogg, Frederic C. Haskins and James H. Barnard each planted a number of acres.

Mr. Clifton S. Deane, Fred B. Cochran and Fred M. Curtis were the Forest Committee. Mr. Deane, Walter C. Barnard and Charles A. Bruce are the present committee.

### Census

The population on the following dates was as follows:

1850 .....	1770
1855 .....	1791
1865 .....	1578
1875 .....	1818
1900 .....	1560
1915 .....	1563
1930 .....	1519
1935 .....	1666

### Highways

There are approximately forty-nine and one half miles of highways in town. Two of these are state highways. Of the others, most of the through ways have been modernized and tarvia coated in the past twenty years, with the help of state appropriations, and at present most of the side streets are being gravel coated and many of them tarred.

Barrell Lane was discontinued as a highway in 1890. Barstow Avenue was laid out as a town way in 1894. Mill Lane from Central Street to a point near the mill dam was accepted as a town way in 1935.

### Town Landing at Union Bridge

Just when this landing was established we have not

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

been able to learn, but it was very early, (Deane says 1645), and it was used continuously until the 1898 storm.

Located on the highway it was easily accessible and was not only used for landing hay, but in packet days, much freight was unloaded there, and wood and produce shipped to Boston. Fifty years ago there were always two or three gundalows hauled up, or being repaired, and many were built there.

In 1891 the town appropriated \$100 and Frank Turner built out the wharf and put on a new cap sill. Some years later Arthur L. Power was a committee to make repairs on the landing. It seems rather short sighted that when the new cement bridge was built and the road raised by order of the County Commissioners that no provision was made to get on to the landing as might easily have been done when the work was in progress. This was done later in 1933-34 by the W. P. A.

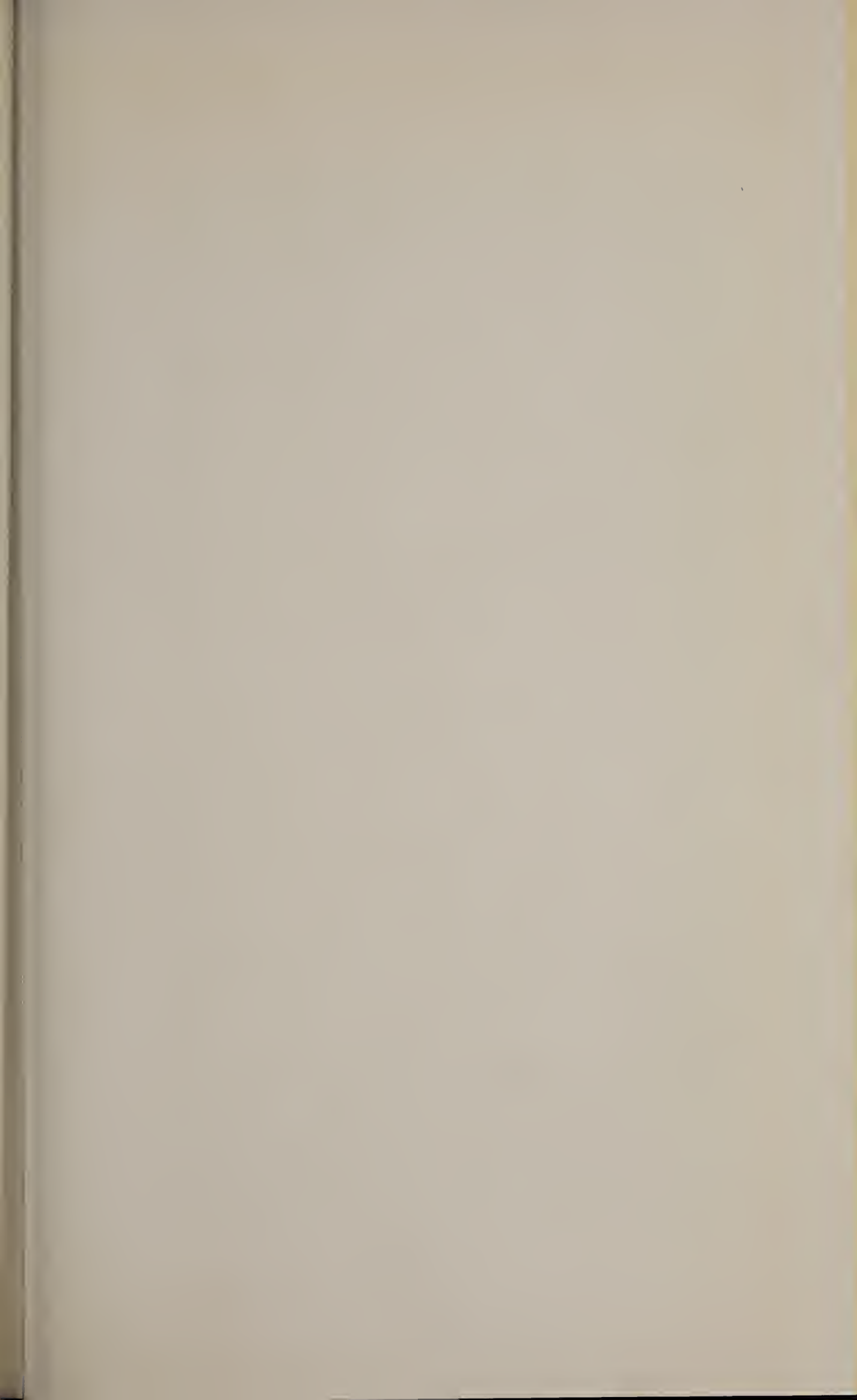
### Chittenden Landing

A landing was early set apart and established where Job Randall first built vessels. In 1695 the Selectmen being authorized to renew and locate those "Ancient" layouts that had not been recorded, re-established the bounds of this landing and the town way to the main road.

One hundred and six years later, April 6, 1801, Elijah Turner was chosen agent to ascertain and clear the landing place near the Widow Ruth Chittenden's.

November 30, 1801, the committee chosen August 18, 1801, to renew the bounds of the landing reported that it was satisfactorily accomplished and the report was signed by the Selectmen, Elisha Foster, Charles Turner, Jr., and Silvanus Clapp, for the town and by Lydia Stetson and Ruth Chittenden, widow of Nathaniel Chittenden, adjoining land owners.

In 1861 Samuel Tolman Jr., agent for the Town of South Scituate to ascertain the bounds of the Chittenden Landing reported to the town. Elijah Cudworth and David Torrey the abutting owners at that time were pres-







PAGEANT SCENE, CHITTENDEN LANDING, 1936

Site where schooner Helen M. Foster was built.

(Photograph by Ace Photo Service, Boston)

## FORESTS, HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, ETC.

ent and assisted the agent in establishing the bounds, and signed a statement that they were satisfied and relinquished all title thereto.

### **King's Landing**

This was not a town landing, but for many years it was used by the people of the easterly part of what is now Norwell.

It was located at Stony Brook Creek and called King's Landing after the family of King, who owned the land and were very prominent among the early settlers.

### **Block House and Wanton's Landings**

At these yards the packets used to make regular stops and leave and take on freight for people near by, but like King's Landing, they were not regular town landings.

### **Union Bridge**

The only bridge to cross the river within the limits of Norwell is Union Bridge. A ferry was established at this location in 1644 by Elisha Bisbee, whose son Elisha, was one of the first tavern keepers of Scituate. The Oakmans ran this ferry for years, and one of them Capt. Tobias Oakman was for forty years captain of a packet trading between North River and Boston. John Tolman succeeded the Oakmans and ran the ferry until the first bridge was built in 1802. This bridge was built by a company and was a toll bridge. Hatch Tilden was keeper for many years and lived in what is now the John Keliher house in Marshfield. In 1850 the towns of South Scituate and Marshfield took over the bridge and it was made a free bridge. There have been four bridges at this point; two of wood, one of steel and the present one of concrete with steel draw.

The wooden bridges served from 1802 to 1899, when the towns contracted with the Pittsburg Bridge Company for a steel bridge. This bridge lasted until 1917 when it

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

was replaced by the present one, the two towns and the County of Plymouth bearing the expense.

In 1898 there was a petition before the County Commissioners for a new road and bridge from the Haskins place on Stetson Road by the David B. Ford place, now the George Morton place, out to the "Two Mile" in Marshfield. The Town voted to oppose the petition and the plan fell through.





## CHAPTER XIV

# OLD ALMSHOUSE

**I**N 1818 the Town of Scituate voted to establish an almshouse and a house was purchased on what was known as Herring Brook Hill, for this purpose. This place was built by Capt. Lane and was later owned and occupied by Silas Morton, George Little Esq., and Josiah L. James, the man who in after years gave the money to establish a library. The total cost was \$3,000. Within three years the building was burned (in 1821) by John Woodward, who was angry with the overseers so Deane says, for placing his wife there. Woodward was sent to jail where he died.

The last house with its four immense chimneys and a fire place in every room, was built in 1821 at a total cost of over \$4,000, including barn and prison house.

From that time the building served as a home for the poor and unfortunate of the Town of Scituate until 1849 and for the Towns of South Scituate and Norwell to 1935. The town of South Scituate purchasing it, in the division agreement between the two towns.

During this long period of years the old house knew many a heartache, of people who were obliged to go there and on the other hand many found a comfortable and pleasant home in which to end their days.

In the old basement seventy-five years ago the old men used to smoke and swap yarns, while earning a little pocket money, picking oakum. For many years in a little room in the front basement a little old man cobbled shoes for the village people.

Back of the almshouse was an old building that was known to the people of earlier generations as the "Old



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Prison House.” It had in those days wooden cells and local offenders, tramps and violently insane people were temporarily confined there.

In early times the mildly insane were kept at the almshouse and not sent to institutions as they are today. When I was a small boy I was told that one of the inmates who was subject to fits of violent insanity could always tell when they were coming on and would send for a neighbor and friend to handcuff and chain him so that he might do no harm to the other inmates.

From the beginning the selectmen’s office was always in a little room in the front of the building. With the division of the town the same custom continued and the town office as it had come to be known, was the starting point for about all of the projects affecting the town. It was here that the meeting was held that resulted in the establishment of the savings bank in 1834-5.

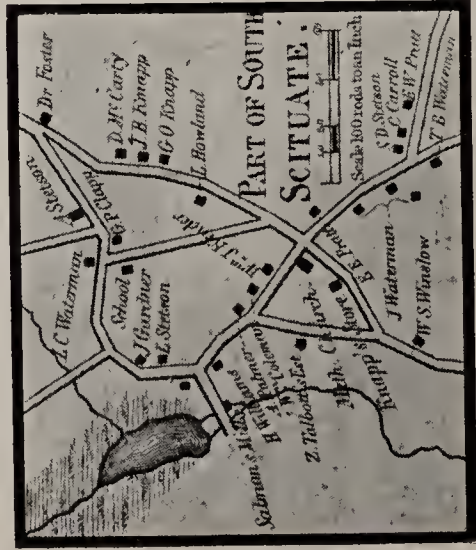
It used to be the custom for the selectmen when meeting on town business, to eat at the almshouse, and they were always subjected to a great deal of joking from the voters even in town meetings. There is a vote still on the records, instructing the selectmen “to board themselves.”

In the 70’s there was a period of hard times and unemployment following the Civil war and great numbers of men were continually going from town to town in search of work. These were fed and lodged at the expense of the towns, where they happened to be when it came night and the old almshouse and the prison house in South Scituate sheltered hundreds of them. The town report gives the number for 1876 as 478, the largest number for one night being 16. Some of them would stay for several days, plying their trades. There was an old man who repaired umbrellas, who came regularly each year and another who caned chairs. This man was locally known as “Garibaldi” a nickname given him by the keeper, Mr. Healey, in honor of the Italian patriot, although the man really came from Ireland.





WINTER SCENE IN NORWELL CENTER, 1904  
 Photographed from a position near present State Police Station. Snow banks,  
 left by plow, directly in front of camera.  
 (Photo by Herbert E. Robbins)



DIAGRAMS FROM WALLING MAP PUBLISHED 1857  
 (Photograph of Walling Map by Jared Gardner. Map loaned by Wilfred Bowker, Accord.)

## OLD ALMSHOUSE

It was a pitiful sight on a cold snowy day to see the men waiting around in the streets and blacksmith shops in the late afternoon, waiting for the time when they could be admitted to the house. In the morning they were required to saw wood for a time as a part payment for their lodging, and sent along to the next town. When the law was changed, tramps or stragglers as they were sometimes called, became things of the past.

The original lot was added to by purchase of land at the back, which was formerly owned by Anson Robbins. The barn was moved and remodelled in 1867. Use of the old "Pound Lot," where stray cattle were once held, was granted, ten years ago, to the state, for the police barracks, recently removed.

On the same lot was a small building used as a storehouse which was formerly the hearse house. It used to be the custom for the town to own a hearse and it was a part of the duty of the superintendent of the almshouse to drive it. For years this building with a steeple on top was located in the First Parish Cemetery just opposite the home of Lester D. West and was taken by strangers to be a small chapel after it was remodeled by Israel Nash. When the old hearse was discarded about fifty years ago the building was moved to the town lot.

James Barrell was the first keeper and was followed by Capt. Ebenezer Bailey.

One of the earlier keepers was Paul Clapp who for several years kept a tavern at what is now the Judd place on Main street. Other keepers have been John Stetson, Laban Sprague, Mellen Minot, George Beasley, Oscar Healey, Stephen Benson, Jairus M. Healey, Frank Goodwin, Charles H. Williston, Orlando H. Lake, C. F. Atkinson, George B. Rolfe, Francis L. Smith, James H. Pinkham, Capt. Charles E. Curtis, John G. Gardner, John F. Wilder, A. C. Chisholm, Edwin F. Harris and Albert Merritt.

These men and their wives had charge of the institution for more than a century.



## CHAPTER XV

# THE SOUTH SCITUATE SAVINGS BANK

**I**N 1834 the active business men of Scituate banded together and formed the "Scituate Institution for Savings." By special act of the Legislature, April 2, 1834, Samuel A. Turner, Anson Robbins and Ebenezer T. Fogg, their associates and successors, were incorporated under that name. From that time the bank has continued to thrive and has been a great factor in the business and financial life of the community.

When the town was divided in 1849, the name was changed to the South Scituate Savings Bank, the name it bears today.

At this time there was an era of prosperity in the town. The fishing industry at the "Harbor," thirty or more vessels fitting out there each year, together with ship building, in which the people in the inland portion of the town were largely interested. In the westerly part, in what is now Norwell, where the new bank was located, the shipyards along the North River having had a twenty year run, since the war of 1812-14, when building was to a certain extent crippled, were at their peak. People were busy and prosperous, and its founders justly felt that there was an opening for an institution of this kind in the community.

In its early days the business was transacted in a small office attached to the home of its treasurer, Ebenezer T. Fogg. This house was for many years the residence of the late Horace T. Fogg, the third treasurer of the bank, founder of the Rockland Trust Company and its president at the time of his death.

## THE SOUTH SCITUATE SAVINGS BANK

When the second Ebenezer T. Fogg was chosen treasurer, the bank was removed to a room on the north side of the store, which stood where the present bank building stands. This building was burned October 5, 1884 and the bank went back for a short time to the little office where it began its existence. On the completion of the new building, it took up its present quarters. These have from time to time been added to, and in July 1921 the bank acquired possession of the entire building. Alterations were then made which have lasted to the extensive remodeling during 1935-36, celebrating the Centennial Anniversary.

It may be said that the bank has always been a close corporation, since three of the five treasurers have been descendants of the first treasurer and one of the original incorporators, Ebenezer T. Fogg. The present treasurer is also the great grandson of another original incorporator and the first vice-president of the bank, Anson Robbins.

The clerks have been in like manner of the Litchfield and Fogg names for many years, and from generation to generation we find sons of the fathers serving on the board of trustees. The list of officers who have served during the past century is made up of men well known and active in the business and political life of the community, representative citizens of their time.

As the bank grew in years, it gradually reached out into the neighboring towns as is evidenced by the representation of these towns on the board of trustees and other officers. Moses F. Rogers of Pembroke and Marshfield, serving as President for twenty-one years, George H. Weatherbee of Marshfield, two years, Perez Simmons of Hanover and his son John F., each served seven years. Henry Norwell, a Boston business man for whom the town was named, three years, Henry J. Curtis of Hanover, three years and the present President William F. Bates, also of Hanover, who has served 19 years.

Charles H. Killam, Edward A. Bowker, Lot Phillips, Fred Phillips and Jedediah Dwelley of Hanover, Thomas

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

F. Buttimer and Frank H. Wright of Hingham, Calvin S. West of Pembroke, Charles H. Waterman and Arthur H. Damon of Scituate, Granville D. Damon and Walter H. Damon of Marshfield, are among those who have represented their respective town in the capacity of trustee.

On January 30, 1897 in view of the serious illness of the treasurer, Ebenezer T. Fogg, who had held that office for thirty-six years, the trustees appointed his son, Horace T. Fogg treasurer. Mr. Fogg held this office until 1911, when on account of other interests he resigned, but continued to serve on the board of trustees until his death on August 21, 1930.

Harry T. Fogg, his nephew was elected treasurer in his place and continued in that office for eight years, resigning to take another position. He is still a member of the board of trustees and clerk of the Corporation.

Herbert E. Robbins, the present treasurer was elected in 1919.

The terms of service are as follows:

Ebenezer T. Fogg	1835—1861
Ebenezer T. Fogg, Jr.	1861—1897
Horace T. Fogg	1897—1911
Harry T. Fogg	1911—1919
Herbert E. Robbins	1919 to present

The following gentlemen have served as Presidents:

Cushing Otis	1835—1837
Walter Foster	1838—1841
William James	1842—1851
Albion Turner	1852—1853
Moses Rogers	1854—1875
George H. Weatherbee	1876—1877
Perez Simmons	1878—1885
John F. Simmons	1886—1893
Henry Norwell	1894—1896
Henry J. Curtis	1897—1899
Joseph H. Corthell	1900—1919
William F. Bates	1920—

THE SOUTH SCITUATE SAVINGS BANK

Officers 1937

President	William F. Bates
Vice President	Henry C. Ford
Clerk of Corporation	Harry T. Fogg

Trustees

Herbert E. Robbins	Walter E. Damon
William F. Bates	Henry J. Tolman
Charles H. Waterman	Edward A. Bowker
Harry T. Fogg	Arthur H. Damon
Henry C. Ford	Elliott W. Crowell
Frank H. Wright	Ernest H. Sparrell
James H. Barnard	Fred W. Phillips

Board of Investment

Frank H. Wright, Chairman

William F. Bates	Henry C. Ford
Charles H. Waterman	Henry J. Tolman

Auditing Committee

William F. Bates	James H. Barnard
Elliott W. Crowell	

Treasurer

Herbert E. Robbins





## CHAPTER XVI

# LIBRARIES

**B**ACK in 1871 Rev. William H. Fish, the minister of the First Parish Church of South Scituate, learned while corresponding with Josiah L. James of Chicago, a friend he had made while teaching in the Middle West, and a native of this town, that Mr. James was desirous of doing something to benefit his old home town, that would be a memorial to his people, who were among the very early settlers and who had always been identified with the Parish, and very prominent in town affairs.

It was finally arranged that he would give a substantial sum to establish a library, if the parish and townspeople would also contribute. This was done and the building was erected and was dedicated, May 1, 1874.

Mr. Fish was the first Librarian and worked as faithfully to build up a successful library as he had toward helping to create it.

While it is owned and controlled by the First Parish being under the direct charge of a committee chosen at the Annual Parish meeting, it has been a free library for all the townspeople since 1902 and the Town of Norwell has for some years made a small yearly appropriation towards its maintenance.

Today there are more than five thousand volumes on the shelves and a fund for the purchase of books and general upkeep of over \$15,000.

The present officers are: Librarian, Marion G. Merritt; library committee, Joseph F. Merritt, chairman; Mary L. F. Power, treasurer; Marion G. Merritt, secretary; Edwin S. Parker, Rev. Alfred J. Wilson; Library hours, Monday,





### JAMES LIBRARY BUILDING

erected 1874. Both the building and the library which it contains, owe their existence to the impetus given to the free library movement by Josiah L. James of Chicago, a native of South Scituate.

*(Cut loaned by Miss Carrie M. Ford)*

## LIBRARIES

7 to 8 p. m. Wednesdays 6 to 8 p. m. Saturdays 2 to 4, 6 to 8 p. m. Not open on holidays.

The building also has a hall and supper room which have served the parish and community at large for social and educational purposes for sixty-three years. The associations connected with it are very pleasant memories in the minds of many of the old and middle aged people as well as of the younger generations who are enjoying it today.

### William J. Leonard Memorial Library

This library, first known as the "Ridge Hill Library," was established in 1920. Its name was changed in 1937. Seventeen years previous to 1937 some of the people of that section banded together and raised funds to establish a library. A building was purchased and located on the school house lot at District Number One. At the annual town meeting the voters were asked to appropriate \$50.00 and to choose a board of two trustees to have charge of the library. It was understood the library was to become the property of the town. This was done, Mr. William J. Leonard and Mr. William O. Prouty were chosen trustees. Mr. Alfred H. Prouty was later added. The trustees were to be chosen, one for three, one for two and the other for one year, and after that one was to be chosen every year.

At one time the upper room of the school house was used, but it was later needed for school purposes and the books were moved back to the library building. Each year the town appropriates fifty dollars for general expenses and books. Gifts have been received from the State and other sources. The first year the library had four hundred and fifty volumes and reported that forty per cent of these were in circulation at all times.

The trustees at present are Mrs. Pauline W. Leonard, William O. Prouty and Alfred H. Prouty.

Library hours, Wednesday 2:30 to 4:30 and from 7 to 8 p. m. Librarian, Thomas H. Cann.



## CHAPTER XVII

# HALLS

### Fogg's Hall

**T**WO incidents during 1884 made a great change in the aspect of the "Hill." The burning of the town hall in the morning of April 18, and the burning of Fogg's store and the bank building in the early evening of October 3. The consequent building of a new town hall, near the center of the town and the establishment of a new hall, when the store building was rebuilt.

Mr. Ebenezer T. Fogg commenced to rebuild, on the old site, a building to house his store and the South Scituate Savings Bank. Seeing the need of a hall in this part of the town, as the small hall connected with the James Library was not suited for a gathering of more than one hundred people, he finished off the upper story of the new building for this purpose.

It was known for years as Fogg's Hall, and was used until a short time after the bank acquired possession of the building in 1921, when they closed it to the public.

For three generations it was the gathering place for most of the social activities and the older residents remember with pleasure the dramatic clubs, dances, socials and dancing schools, that each generation held in its time.

It was the lodge room for the Grange and the Chevaliers of Pythias, when these were active organizations in town. The Parish always used it for entertainments, fairs and Christmas exercises that could not be readily staged at the Library Hall, and the young Ladies Union and the North River Boat Club, two very active organizations, held dances and entertainments here.



Faint, illegible text or a caption located below the illustration, possibly describing the building or providing related information.



CUSHING MEMORIAL TOWN HALL

Gift to the town of Miss Florence M. Cushing, in memory of her father, Hayward Peirce Cushing, and her uncle, Nathan Cushing.  
Dedicated Nov. 7, 1936

*(Photograph by Ralph H. Coleman)*

## HALLS

It also did duty for the occasional revival meetings of various denominations as well as for the itinerant showmen who came to town. The recollections that centered about it were pleasant and far reaching, and it was with real regret that people watched it being dismantled when the bank building was remodeled in 1934-35.

### Cushing Memorial Town Hall, 1936

Norwell's new town hall is the fulfilment of a provision of the will of Miss Florence M. Cushing, who wished to give to the town a building or monument which should be a memorial to her father and to her uncle, Hayward Peirce Cushing and Nathan Cushing, representative members of a family which for more than two centuries has been influential in the affairs of Scituate, South Scituate, and Norwell. In addition to a large hall with a stage, for town meetings, lectures, entertainments, and other public meetings, the fireproof building contains a smaller hall for other community purposes, a polling place, Selectmen's Offices, and a vault for the safe-keeping of town records.

On learning that the trustees in charge of the fund were ready to go ahead with building if the town would furnish the location, at the meeting of October 21, 1935, it was voted to remove the old infirmary building and use the lot at the corner of Main and Central streets for the site of the new building. Also to authorize the selectmen to accept it, when completed, in the name of the town. Work was commenced on January 1, 1936. The building was completed and dedicated, November 2, 1936. The town now enjoys one of the largest benefactions that any town in this section has ever received.

### PROGRAM OF DEDICATION

November 2, 1936

Invocation  
Selections

Rev. Alfred J. Wilson  
High School Glee Club





## CHAPTER XVIII

# SCHOOLS

WHEN the town was set apart from Scituate in 1849 there were nine school districts within the borders of the new town. The school houses were the property of the several districts and were held by them until 1866 when it was voted to abolish the old system, and appraisers were appointed preparatory to taking over of the buildings by the town.

A school committee was chosen at the first town meeting, who had the general supervision over the studies and running of the schools but there was also a prudential committee consisting of one member from each school district who had the hiring of the teachers.

After a very short time District No. 9 was discontinued and a little later District No. 8 was merged with No. 7, the building standing near the top of Delano Hill being sold and moved to Assinippi. The building on Common Street near the Cushing Waterman place was sold and later became the property of Luther Howland, who moved it to present location on River Street, which M. Little purchased in 1867. For a time after it ceased to be used as a school house it was used for a hall while on its old location and was generally referred to as Union Hall. The building that is the present Community house was purchased in 1860 and moved to the location where it was enlarged and used as both grammar and primary school for many years. It was originally the William Stetson house.

The school house at No. 1, The West End, was originally built in the '50's. It was later raised to accommodate a grammar grade. Its first location was on the north-

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE—NORWELL

erly side of Washington Street—about half way between the establishment of the Accord Chemical Co. and the home of Mrs. William J. Leonard.

District No. 2 was built in 1876. It is a two story building and accommodated an advanced grammar school upstairs. This was taught by Franklin Jacobs. The old building which formerly stood on this location was moved further up Main Street where it was used as a store and owned by Mr. Alpheus Damon.

District No. 5 at the "Hill" was raised and a story added to accommodate two schools, the work being authorized at the April meeting in 1882, the cost not to exceed \$1300 and to be done during the summer vacation. The committee in charge were Alpheus Thomas, Richard Briggs, Henry F. Ford, Charles A. Litchfield, Willard Torrey, David W. Turner and Henry A. Turner.

District No. 3 which originally sat nearly opposite Manus Perry's house on Grove Street was later moved to a location on the corner of Grove and School Streets. It was abandoned, sold and moved away in 1919.

The school at No. 4 first located on the north side of Summer Street, about fifty rods north of Central Street was sold and moved to Scituate and another building erected on Central Street in the '50s. This building was discontinued and sold at the time the schools were centralized.

The school house at No. 6 was located just across the way from the old cemetery on Main street a few rods east of Bridge Street. An earlier school in this district was located between the Arthur L. Power and Walter Johnson places. This building was moved to Central Street where it was converted into a dwelling house which is now owned by Miss Polly Manson. A new school was built, but was later discontinued and the building was moved to Parker Street where it was remodeled in 1923 and is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Pinson. The lot reverted to Mr. James H. Barnard, he being the owner of the estate from which it was originally taken.

## SCHOOLS

Many of the old school house lots were held by the town only while used for school purposes, they having no title to them.

In early days there was a school house situated on Circuit Street, on what is now the De-Stefano property about half-way between Main Street and Henry Heredeen's homestead. This was discontinued in 1857. It was District No. 9 and the location, White Oak Plain. Lot sold in 1889.

In 1871 the first agitation for a high school was noticed. A committee was appointed by the town to consider the expediency of establishing a high school or devise some way to promote the efficiency of the schools. This year the town made a larger appropriation than usual for use of schools viz., \$4000.

At the March meeting in 1876 the town voted to build a new town hall in the center of the town to be so constructed as to accommodate a high school. A committee was chosen with instructions to ascertain the whole facts relative to establishing a high school in the center and to furnish the town with the information of the probable cost, when finished to report at a subsequent meeting.

At the April meeting, the committee reported and it was voted to accept their report and chose Willard Torrey, George H. Torrey, Ezekiel Vinal, Richard Briggs and Franklin Jacobs to build the building. It was also voted to authorize the treasurer to hire \$6500 for this purpose.

At a meeting May 29 of the same year the whole matter was reconsidered and the committee discharged. Several other attempts were made, but without success.

At the meeting in March 1879 the school committee were instructed not to pay any teachers over eight dollars a week.

No definite action was taken until 1887 when the town chose a committee to confer with the school committee relative to establishing a high school and report at next annual meeting.



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

At the meeting in 1888 the committee reported and their recommendation was adopted, namely that a High School be established in No. 2 School House to commence at the usual time of fall term in September. This was done, the school opening with Mr. Edward J. Cox as principal. The first class graduated July 1, 1891.

No sooner was the High School established than its removal to the town hall was agitated. In 1889-1890 and 1892 there were articles in the warrant to this end.

On March 23, 1896, at an adjourned meeting it was voted to move the High School into the Town Hall building and to appropriate \$300 for transportation of scholars to the High School to be apportioned on the mileage basis. This was the real beginning of the transportation system. The Selectmen were chosen a committee to carry this vote into effect and an appropriation was made to make the necessary arrangements in the building.

In 1919 it was voted that a committee of seven including the school committee be appointed to look into the question of a central school building and report at the next annual meeting—Committee, Horace T. Fogg, Miss Florence Cushing, Mr. John H. Gutterson, Mr. Benjamin Loring, Mrs. Albert L. Sylvester, Mrs. John H. Sparrell.

Voted to sell building and lot at No. 4.

Voted to sell building at No. 6 to be moved.

In 1922 it was voted to build a central school house along the lines recommended by a committee and \$40,000 was appropriated for this purpose. It was voted to raise this sum by serial notes extending over a period of not more than twenty years.

In 1925 \$500 was appropriated to purchase additional land around the Central School.

It was voted to appropriate the bonus refund received from the State for grading a playground for the Central School under the direction of the School Committee. \$368.14—amount not used but was reappropriated in 1927.

## SCHOOLS

During 1932 extensive repairs were made on District No. 1. In 1927, the town now having a suitable high school, voted not to accept the legacy under the will of Leaffy B. Miller, but suitable recognition was made of her generous action and her interest in the school children of the town.

In 1933 and 1934 extensive repairs and renovations were made on District No. 5 through funds secured from the Civil Works Administration.

In October 1935 it was voted to raise and appropriate a sum of money to finance the construction of High School addition and improved heating system and direct the selectmen to accept in behalf of the town a Federal grant of money, pursuant to Emergency Relief Appropriation of 1935; and authorize a committee to construct said project and contract with respect thereto, and authorize the treasurer, with the approval of the selectmen to borrow such sums of money as may be necessary to meet any appropriation made; or take any action relative thereto.

A building committee was appointed and arrangements were being made to carry the above into effect.

On December 20 the High School and Town Hall caught fire and was a total loss.

A town meeting was called for January 6, 1936, to make the preliminary arrangements for rebuilding. At this meeting the following votes were passed:

Voted not to ask for an extension of the P. W. A. grant for use on its new building. That the new building be built by funds raised by the town.

A building committee consisting of J. Lyman Wadsworth, chairman; A. R. Gordon, Charles H. Pike, William D. Jacobs, Mrs. Gertrude Dyer, Benjamin Loring, Mrs. Nellie L. Sparrell.

They were instructed to bring in plans for a building that would be fireproof with the others.

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

\$100 was appropriated to enable the building committee to inspect buildings of a type suitable to needs.

A vote of thanks was extended to old committee for their services in connection with the old extension.

The High School received at various times a fine collection of Indian relics from Mr. Joseph C. Otis which were destroyed in the fire; a flag staff from Mr. John H. Gutterson; and an addition of several acres to the playground from Mr. Albert L. Sylvester.

At the Annual Meeting in March 1936, it was voted by a unanimous vote of those present and voting, that there be raised and appropriated the sum of \$130,000 for the purpose of acquiring land for and the construction of and originally equipping and furnishing a school building and to meet such appropriations there be transferred from available funds represented by insurance money received on account of the loss by fire of the high school and town hall the sum of \$40,000, and the treasurer with the approval of the selectmen be authorized to borrow under authority of Chapter 44 General Laws the sum of \$50,000 and may also borrow \$40,000 under the authority of Chapter 63 Acts of 1936, and issue bonds or notes of the town therefor payable in such manner that the whole loan be paid within twenty years or such earlier dates as the treasurer and selectmen may determine.

A location was acquired a little west of the old location on the south side of the street. The services of Mr. Ralph H. Doane were secured as architect and contract for building given to Irving P. Rocheford. The plumbing to George Beach of Norwell. Work began on the project May 15, 1936, and the building was completed May 8, 1937.





## CHAPTER XIX

# STAGE COACH DAYS

**I**N these times when it is so easy for the people living in the lower towns of the South Shore to travel back and forth to Boston, and when so many are making the trip daily, for business or pleasure, it is hard to realize the difficulties, the time it took and the hardships that the folks of one hundred years, and even fifty years ago, experienced in making the same trip. In the very early days it was either by horse-back or packet, but early in the nineteenth century stage lines were quite generally established and for many years they were the chief means of passenger transportation, gradually diminishing as the railways extended, and then only acting as short line feeders, until with the coming of the automobile they finally ceased to exist.

In 1810 Leonard and Woodward of Plymouth ran a line of coaches from Sandwich on the Cape, through Plymouth, Kingston, Duxbury, Pembroke, Hanover, Scituate, Hingham, Weymouth and Quincy to Boston. One of the eating places on the route was Leonard's tavern in Scituate, the "Old Half Way House." The route followed the Braintree and Weymouth turnpike which was built in 1803. The fare from Scituate to Boston was \$1.25; from Boston to Plymouth \$2.50.

Early in the 40's J. Sprague familiarly known as "Jake" ran a stage line from Duxbury through Marshfield and Scituate, the part which was later set off as South Scituate to Hingham connecting with the steamboat. He was a bluff and jovial man and many stories are told of him. It was his custom to stop at John Nash's to change horses. He was an old time driver and very particular.



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Mr. Benjamin Foster, who later followed the same line of business, said that as a boy he used to help change the horses and that Mr. Sprague would carefully gather the lead lines in his hands and if there was a single twist in them would bawl out. "Augers in those reins Ben."

A receipt signed by Mr. Sprague and in the possession of the writer shows that the fare between Hingham and South Scituate was 37½ cents.

Another coach which frequently stopped at Mr. Nash's to water the horses was a private one, the carriage of the Hon. Daniel Webster of Marshfield, United States Senator. While the horses were being cared for Mr. Webster would discuss politics with the proprietor and any bystanders. Mr. Seth Foster often told how Mr. Webster handed him a silver quarter in payment for trivial service. That was unheard of wealth for a boy in those days and Mr. Foster bemoaned the fact that he did not save it as a souvenir.

Following Mr. Sprague, Reuben Gardner ran a stage over the same route and in 1854 Seth Foster of South Scituate succeeded him and ran a stage thru Assinippi and West Scituate to Hingham connecting with the boat in summer and the train in winter until 1875 when he sold out to Allen Wright of West Scituate who ran it several years and was succeeded by William Collamore who ran to Rockland. Mr. Foster also ran stages to North Marshfield, to Hanover and to Greenbush. The Greenbush route he continued to drive until 1902, being in the stage business 48 years and carrying the mail 43 years. George S. Hatch purchased the Greenbush route and after a short time it was motorized.

Before the Civil War, Mr. Foster had built by the Abbott-Downing Company of Concord, N. H., a sixteen passenger coach. For years this company was the best in that line in the country and coaches built by them could be told from those built by any other company as far as they could be seen or heard. They were said to never wear out and a sixteen passenger coach could and fre-

## STAGE COACH DAYS

quently did, carry nearer fifty. There was a special rattle or "talk" to the axles so that they could be distinguished by the sound for a long distance. Mr. Foster used his until he gave up the Hingham route when he sold it to William P. Nason of Rockland, who for many years used it as a "Tally Ho" and the older people can remember the trips to Brockton Fair and Nantasket before the days of the electrics.

Parsons Bowker of South Scituate also ran a stage to Hingham over Mount Blue for several years.

Harvey Bates and son Lorenzo ran a stage through Scituate Center and Beechwood to Hingham for a time. Later Lorenzo drove for Mr. Foster for many years on the Greenbush route.

Frank Dyer ran a stage and express from "Church Hill" to Greenbush through Bryant's Corner carrying the Mount Blue mail for a number of years. When many local expressmen were forced off the railroad he became the agent of the N. Y., & B. Des. Ex. Co.

James Litchfield ran from Summer street to Cohasset.

In the earlier days along with the stage coach went the baggage wagon. This was a four horse dead axle, covered wagon which carried freight. These wagons were common all over the country in the 30's. In the Central and Southern states the type used were known as "Conestogas," but in this particular section they were simply baggage wagons. The lines from Plymouth and points on the "Cape" ran through Hanover Four Corners, by the Half Way House, through Weymouth to Boston. On some of the lines horses were changed at "Brimstone Corner," on others at the Howard House, Hanover, the same as on the stage lines. In the later days spring wagons came into use. These wagons were much slower than the stages, the horses seldom going faster than a walk and much of the travel was done in the night.



## CHAPTER XX

### HOTELS, INNS AND TAVERNS

**O**F the very early taverns, the first that there is any record of is "Bisby's." According to Deane, Elisha Bisby kept a tavern about the time of the Indian War of 1676 on the knoll just north of Union Bridge. He was the son of Elisha, who settled at this place in 1644 and maintained a ferry where the bridge is now located.

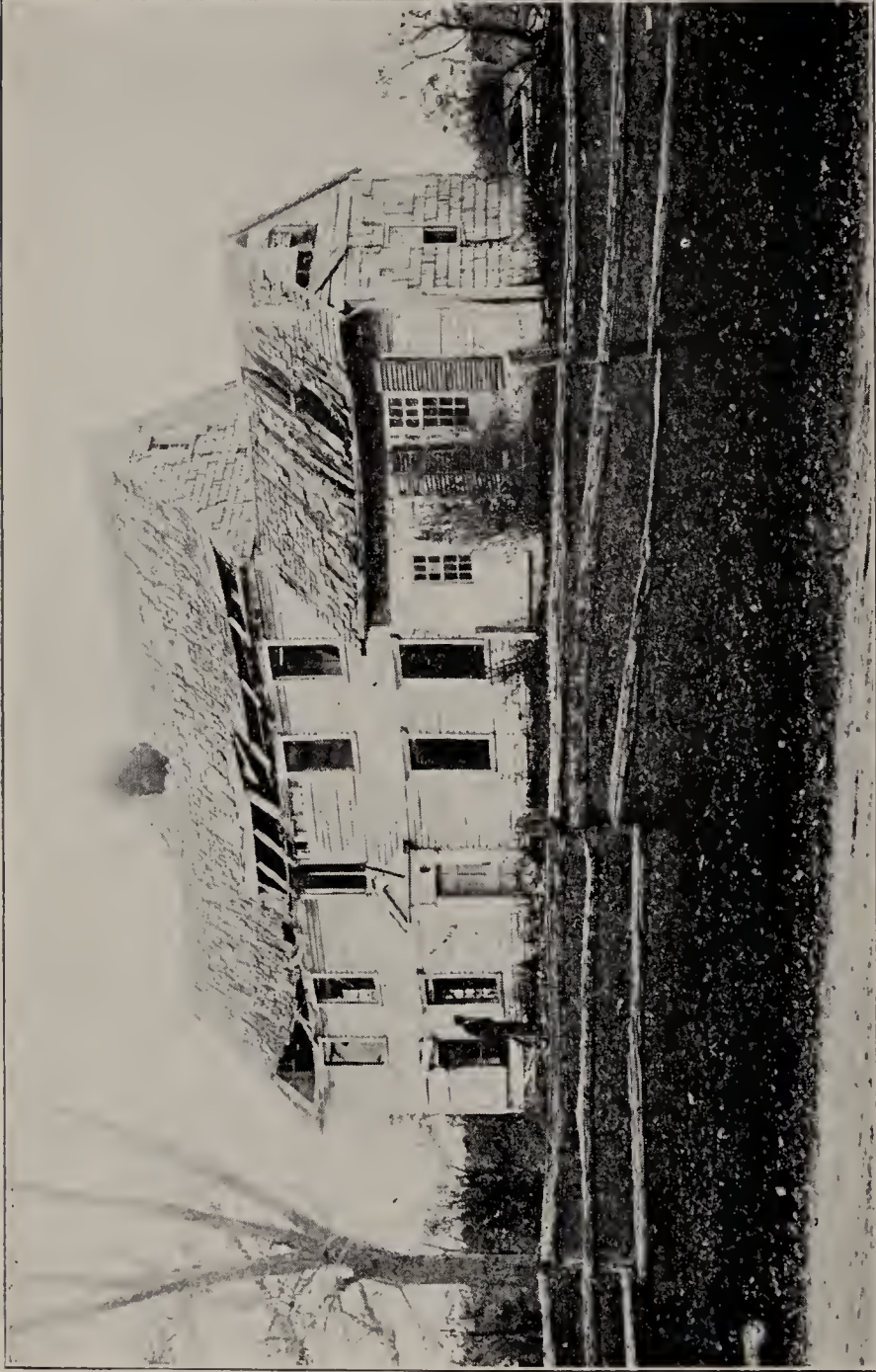
He also says that Capt. Caleb Torrey built and carried on a tavern on what is now Central street, just above the home of Ernest H. Sparrell. He was the son of Josiah Torrey, who, with two others, lost his life by an explosion of gunpowder in 1693. He, as the custodian of the town's supply of powder, was drying it on the roof of a shed when it exploded and burned the house, killing the three people, one a child. This place stood across the way from the present Sparrell residence.

John Foster, son of Deacon Hatherly Foster, kept a public house across the way from Eugene Langdon's place on Main street. This house was one of the oldest in town, built in 1697, and was the center of much local history. It was used as a tavern, a store was also stocked and during the Revolution, and even later, town meetings were sometimes held in the hall on the second story. It was in the "Foster" family for about 150 years and was torn down in 1898 by James Green, who owned the property at that time.

About 1680 Job Randall, who lived on River Street, where several generations of the Torrey family have since resided, just opposite the way leading to the shipyard, now known as the "Chittenden" yard, but at that time the property of Randall, who built several vessels there,







ANCIENT FOSTER HOUSE,  
Main Street. Torn down 1898. Said to have been built in 1697.  
Was tavern, store and residence.

## HOTELS, INNS AND TAVERNS

used also to keep a public house or tavern for the accommodation of travelers. There is a tradition that no less a personage than Judge Sewall was his guest at one time.

Historia, a little magazine of local history, published in Norwell some 40 years ago, had this item in its Feb. 1899, issue:

### JOB RANDALL

(Mr. Randall lived at or near the spot now occupied by the residence of Mrs. Harriet Torrey, River Street, Norwell.)

Mass. Historical Society  
Boston, Dec. 13, 1898

Dear Mr. Turner

Perhaps the following extract from Judge Sewall's diary may interest you. (Judge Sewall was the noted jurist, who pronounced sentence upon persons accused of witchcraft, and lived to do penance for his act).

April 17, 1708—Col. Hathorne, Mr. Corwin and myself set out for Scituate. Lodged at Job Randall's on April 18, heard Mr. James Gardener of Marshfield.

I presume that the Job Randall here mentioned is the one whose name appears on the third page of "Historia." Again Sewall writes under date of April 25, 1719, that he "set out for Scituate and got to Mr. Randall's about 5 o'clock."

SAMUEL A. GREEN

The farm is now owned and occupied by the family of James Liddell.

### Paul Clapp's Tavern

In the old Colonial mansion of George E. Judd, Paul Clapp conducted a tavern from about 1836 to 1842. This house was for many years the home of Rev. Samuel Deane, a minister of the Second church of Scituate, and it was here that most of Deane's history of Scituate was written. About 1844 the family of Samuel Hart, a retired naval constructor and a son of Edward Hart, who was

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

master builder of the Frigate Constitution at Boston, purchased the place and it was occupied by the family until about 1900. Joseph T. Hart, a son, and his wife, Nellie (Brownell) Hart, with their son Joseph, being the last to occupy it. Dr. Hayward W. Cushing, George Whitcomb and Arthur Coombs were among the later owners.

### Snow Bryant's Tavern

In the Mount Blue section, Snow Bryant ran a tavern for some time in the early 30's. The place was later owned by Henry F. Ford and was used by himself and his successors as a general country store. The Mt. Blue postoffice was located here until it was supplanted by the rural free delivery from Cohasset. In Bryant's day a large swinging sign with a black horse announced to the traveling public "Entertainment for Man and Beast," and the members of the local company of militia quenched their thirst after strenuous drills in the field opposite.

### Half Way House

One of the most important taverns of the last century was the "Old Half Way House" on Washington Street, across from its junction with High street. In the early stage coach days it was known as "Leonard's Tavern," being built by Eliphalet Leonard about the year 1800, and was a regular stopping place for the "Cape" and Plymouth stages on the road to Boston. William Smith, the Whittens and others were early proprietors. In Civil War times it was under the management of the "Kimballs," father and son, Oliver succeeding his father. Later Charles E. Brewster came up from Duxbury and ran it for several years. John Welch of Boston, Prescott Shaw of Rockland and "Landlord" Smith of Rhode Island followed. There was a bowling alley and livery stable connected with the hotel and it was a favorite gathering place for the sporting men of those times; also for the traders and farmers to swap both lies and horses. It burned down forty years ago and was not rebuilt.







#### OLD HALF-WAY HOUSE

Where the Plymouth-Boston stages halted. A well-known tavern. Burned on July 12, 1885.  
(Cut loaned by Chief Justice Cushing Chapter D. A. R.)



#### NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Built 1936-37. On land of former Brooks farm, Main Street.  
Dedicated June, 1937

(Photo by Elwin Gould)

## HOTELS, INNS AND TAVERNS

### Ridge Hill House

Soon after the Half Way House was burned, the Dexter Wilcutt shoe shop, later the Gideon Swan shop, was remodeled and Landlord Smith of the Half Way House set up a tavern there. Following Smith, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Wilder were in charge. Otis H. Perry and John Benson also ran the place for a number of years. It is the last one of the old time taverns still used as a public house and was later known as the Bay Path Inn.

### Turner House

About the year 1880, Edwin A. Turner, a native of South Scituate, who had been conducting a store business in Greenbush for the past twelve years, returned to South Scituate and built a hotel on the "Hill." From time to time he added to the original building and for many years he and his wife, Eliza H. Turner, conducted one of the best known old time hotels in this section. Traveling people, the itinerant showmen, actors and lecturers of those times all put up there. William T. (Comical) Brown, Professor Bateman the phrenologist, "Yankee Glunn," Kimball with his panorama, the movies of those days; Dunbar the singer; Edward Emerson the impersonator; the Perkins, colored singers; were all their patrons year after year when they showed in town. So were the prominent orchestras of the times. J. Howard Richardson of Boston; Knowlton and Allen of Natick; the Fadettes of Boston; when they played for Thanksgiving and February 22nd dances that some of the local organizations always gave on those nights. When the telephone first came through the town the local exchange was established there with Mr. Turner as manager. Dr. Harry J. Little had his office there for many years and later Dr. Handy for a time. After the deaths of both Mr. and Mrs. Turner, the building ceased to be used as a hotel, it being owned and occupied for a time by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holland, and later in 1924 it was purchased by Mrs. Theresa Bruno, who changed it to an

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

apartment house. It was destroyed late in November, 1926, when the store building on the property caught fire and burned.





## CHAPTER XXI

# THE NORTH RIVER BOAT CLUB

**E**ARLY in the '90s the young people living near the North River in the town of Norwell and Marshfield become very much interested in boating and canoeing. The river in those days was very different from what it is today. The tide, owing to the bar which had formed near the mouth rose and fell very slightly, so that it was seldom, except in extreme high course, that it overflowed the banks very much, neither did it ebb so low as it does now. Gundelowing was still in vogue and in the summer months the meadows were alive with men getting the hay.

Many of the young men owned either a sailboat, rowboat or canoe, and although the river was too narrow and crooked to allow real good sailing, yet time being not so important in those days and knowing nothing of the swifter automobile and motor boat, they managed to get a great deal of enjoyment from them.

Summer people were beginning to come into town and they also took up the sport. Finally it was proposed that a club be formed and a boat house built. A meeting of all interested was called and on September 4, 1893, the North River Boat Club was organized. The first officers chosen were: President, Horace T. Fogg; vice-presidents, Henry Norwell, and Charles E. Lincoln; secretary, Arthur L. Power; treasurer, Henry J. Corthell.

Building and finance committee, Samuel Turner, Ebenezer T. Fogg, Frank Thomas, Arthur L. Power, George Cushing, Henry Norwell and Henry J. Corthell. An entertainment committee, Dr. Henry J. Little, Walter R. Torrey, Henry J. Corthell and Joseph F. Merritt were en-



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

trusted with the task of arranging entertainments to procure funds for a building.

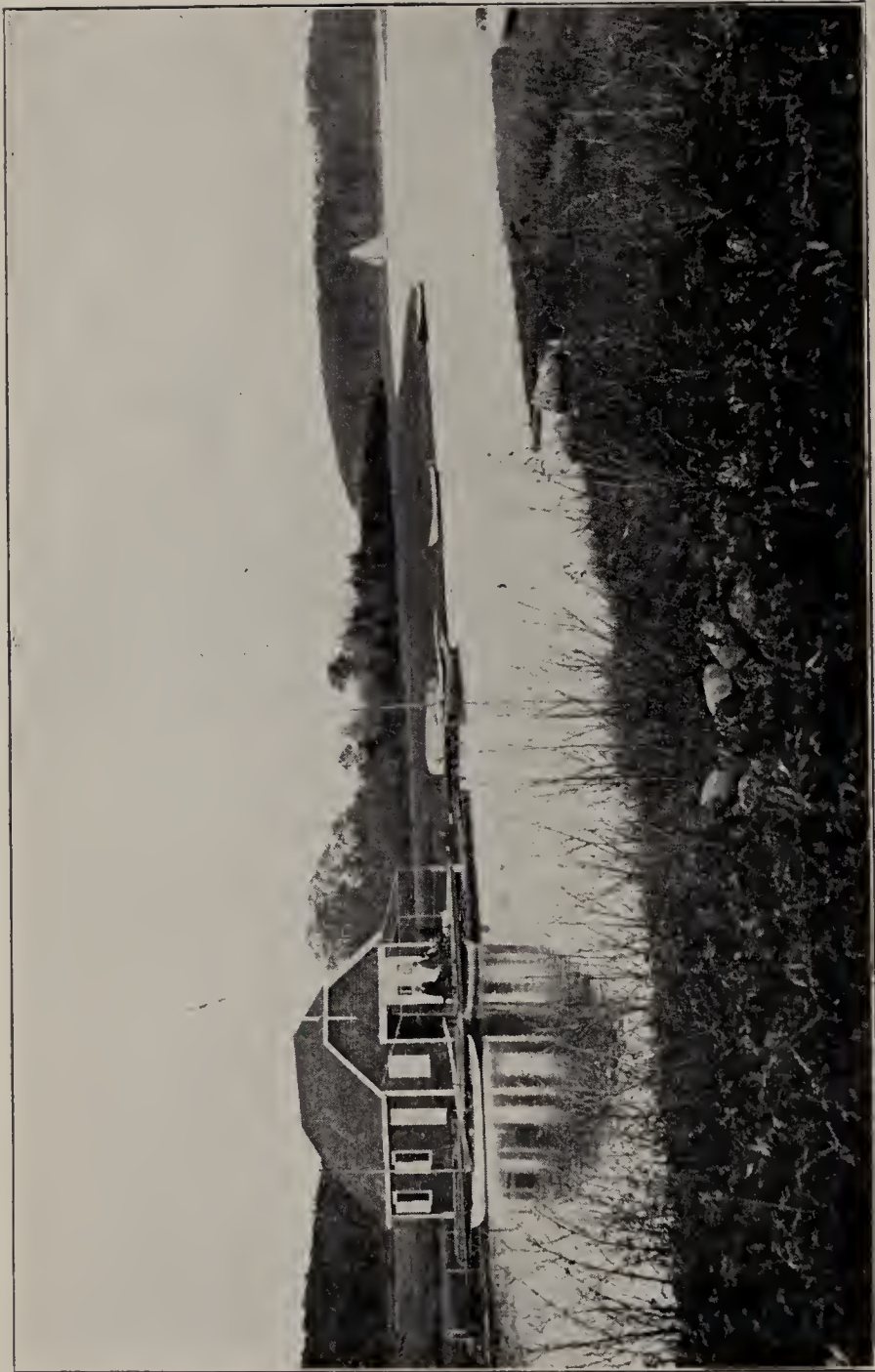
During the winter entertainments and dances added a substantial sum to the treasury, and were very pleasant affairs.

A piece of land adjoining the town landing at Union Bridge was leased of Mrs. Julia R. Thomas and a house built, Nathaniel Phillips of Marshfield having the contract. This house was 24x30 ft. with a platform in front 10 feet wide and a narrower one along the sides. The front platform was covered with an awning and a run led to a float moored in the river. Over the building the club burgee of blue and white, the club colors, and the National Flag were flown. The house was stained a terra cotta with white trim and was very attractive. The building was dedicated June 18, 1894, with speaking, boat racing, tub races and fireworks and dancing in the evening. The records state that the club furnished nothing stronger than lemonade for the occasion. During the next few years affairs of the club were very satisfactory. Minstrel shows, dances and entertainments were given during the winters and in the summers races and dances at the club house, so that it gradually came about that much of the social life of the village centered around the activities of the club.

It is recalled that at one of the minstrel shows given by the club, one of the local colored people, a very clever buck and wing dancer, was secured to help out. While the members of the troupe were being blacked up with burnt cork, he looked thoughtful for a few minutes and said, "It's no use our colors don't match. You will have to put some of that stuff on me."

It was the custom at the dances in those days to sometimes have a turkey supper, at other times just oyster stew. In this instance the committee decided on the stew. Now there was nothing the matter with the stew because it was "built" by Seth Fitts after years of experience in that line and was all right. The trouble was that





NORTH RIVER BOAT CLUB HOUSE  
At Union Bridge. Built 1893. Removed 1899.

## THE NORTH RIVER BOAT CLUB

the committee, in their anxiety to swell the building fund, priced the supper on the basis of turkey, rather than oyster stew. It was some time before they heard the last of a remark said to have been made by a Rockland man that he found only one oyster in his stew which must have died of lonesomeness and grief at the narrowness of the club.

It was very pleasant of a Sunday afternoon to watch the boats manoeuver, and the evening assemblies, with the building and town landing decorated with Japanese lanterns and red fire and "White's" orchestra playing the popular airs of those days, were looked forward to by the young folks for miles around.

It became the custom to have an opening day each year similar to the one on which the building was dedicated. An elaborate set of racing rules was adopted and many races took place between the boats of the various members, the trophy being a silver cup which was presented by the club. This cup went the rounds and is now held by the Power brothers. These races were hotly contested, and the rivalry was very keen. The racing committee were sometimes called on to decide some quite fine points. In the fall of 1895 the club was incorporated. It was represented in the coaching parade, organized by Miss Jenny Cushing, July 5, 1897, by a float.

During 1896 and 1897 two of the members, C. Walter Sparrell and Ebenezer T. Fogg, died.

A glance at the records shows that Charles E. Lincoln, Ernest H. Sparrell, George Cushing and Arthur L. Power successively held the office of President.

Dr. Harry J. Little served as vice president and chairman of the racing committee. Andrew J. Litchfield, Jr., as vice-president and clerk; James L. Ewell and J. B. Henderson on the House committee.

A list of the members shows the interest that was taken in the club and also the interest that many of the older men took in helping the cause along.



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Daniel J. Buckley, George Cushing, Joseph H. Corthell, Elliott W. Crowell, Henry J. Corthell, Fred M. Curtis, George S. Corthell, Dr. Hayward W. Cushing, James L. Ewell, J. Warren Foster, Ebenezer T. Fogg, Horace T. Fogg, Thomas Gaffield, Edw. W. Humphrey, John Burton Henderson, Emanuel P. Joseph, Dr. Harry J. Little, Andrew J. Litchfield, Andrew J. Litchfield Jr., William F. Lawrence, Joseph F. Merritt, Henry Norwell, Harry Norwell, Bruce Norwell, Walter T. Osborn, Edgar F. Power, Arthur L. Power, Percival G. Power, Ashton Sherman, C. Walter Sparrell, Nathaniel Phillips, Ernest H. Sparrell, Charles W. Sparrell, Herbert S. Turner, Willard Torrey, Walter R. Torrey, Frank Thomas, Samuel Turner, William D. Turner, Major Samuel K. Williams.

The day after Thanksgiving, November 1898, came the awful storm and tidal wave which caused the sea to break through the beach between the Third and Fourth Cliffs, making a new mouth to the river. One of the club members John Burton Henderson, his brother, Fred L. Henderson, Albert C. Tilden and George Ford, all closely identified with the club, lost their lives while in a camp which was overturned and washed away, all four being drowned.

After the storm a few meetings were held but no social activities. With the new mouth to the river the boat-house floor was flooded at every tide. Interest was gone and it seemed that it would not be possible again to enjoy sailing owing to the changed conditions. A meeting was called September 8, 1899, to see what action the club would take towards raising or disposing of the boat house. It was voted to sell it at public auction. This was done, it being purchased by Walter T. Osborn and moved to his place on Winter street.

On September 16, it was voted that the North River Boat Club be dissolved. It was also voted that the records be presented to the clerk, Joseph F. Merritt, and that he be requested to preserve them.

Thus ended the North River Boat Club, after an exis-

## THE NORTH RIVER BOAT CLUB

tence of only six years. The old saying, "A short life and a merry one," might well apply.

Another chapter is closed in the story of the river. The day of the sailboat passed with that of the ship-builder, the old packet and gundelow.



## CHAPTER XXII

### STORES AND STORE KEEPERS

**F**ROM very early times the country store has always played an important part in the history and development of towns and communities, and the complete story of them, if it could be told, would be very interesting. They were the clubs and gathering places of the people, politics and town affairs were discussed there, slates were made up for the various town offices, and arguments on local, state and national politics were often very heated. People took their politics and all public questions much more seriously in the days preceding and soon after the Civil War, than they do today, and the present generation cannot understand the intense bitterness over, often trivial political differences, between men who were closely associated in business and social affairs. The post office being a political job was for many years a source of rivalry.

In many of the towns it was the custom for the selectmen when working on town business to eat at the expense of the town. One evening the loafers congregated at a certain store were discussing the selectmen in the pleasant way town officials are discussed at about election time and this custom was coming in for a great deal of criticism. One of the men declared that he was going to make a motion at the next town meeting to have it stopped. The man who told me this story, some years ago, said that there was actually a vote taken at the next meeting in regard to the matter.

The late Jonathan Hatch, himself a store keeper and town officer, used to say that when the grocery store orators were in session that it was never safe to leave until the meeting broke up as those who did were sure to

## STORES AND STORE KEEPERS

be "vilified" by those who remained. He said it was safer for all to leave in a body.

In the earliest days the storekeeper was known as a trader and his store was usually a small building attached to his house. There were many of these in what is now Norwell. The Bryant-Cushing house, the Elisha Foster and the Delano house on River Street, each had a store attached and in the case of the Foster house now the property of Edward P. Keefe, the building is still there. Later, stores began to be built at cross roads and advantageous points, many of these locations being used for the same purpose today.

In the square at South Scituate, John Nash had a store and postoffice in the '20's. He was the first postmaster in that village, appointed in 1828. The store was on land that was owned by the family for over one hundred years and was one of the more important of the older stores. We are told that many of the local officials congregated there and that much of the business that was transacted at the annual town meetings was first discussed at this place. It was next door to the selectmen's office.

At about the same time Ebenezer T. Fogg had a store near what is now the late residence of his grandson, a President of the Rockland Trust Company. In 1835 with the establishment of the Scituate Institution for Savings, now the South Scituate Savings Bank, he became the first treasurer serving until 1861. He also served two terms in the "House" and was Selectman for a number of years.

His son Ebenezer T. Fogg Jr., followed in the same line and built a store on the land of the First Parish across the way from Mr. Nash's. He also purchased the old "Nash" store and attached it to his new building. Like his father he soon entered the banking business succeeding him as treasurer of the South Scituate Savings Bank serving from 1861 to 1897. He entered politics and, like his father, served two terms in the Senate. He was clerk and treasurer of the town for many years until his death in 1897. October 5, 1884 the store was burned and was replaced by



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

the present building. Soon after Mr. Fogg sold the business to his clerks, Andrew J. Litchfield and Fred M. Curtis giving all of his attention to the bank and town business. They continued for a time, being succeeded by A. J. Litchfield and Son. Later by C. S. West and Son, Earl Nash and Son and Elmer E. Josselyn. When the firm of Litchfield and Curtis dissolved, Mr. Curtis went into business for himself. He was succeeded by Curtis and Bates, M. E. Curtis Co., E. H. Sparrell, Joseph Totman and later by Harry S. Merritt. Elmer E. Josselyn is the present occupant.

Thomas Tolman came to this town from Hingham late in the '50's. He had just returned from the California mining region. He first began to manufacture buckets but soon gave this up and built a store on Central Street, just off the "Square". This he ran until a short time before his death. John Nash a grandson of the first postmaster ran it for a time and was followed by E. Clough and Co., with H. S. Turner as agent. Mr. Turner soon after bought the business and moved it to a building of his own on Main Street. This was burned in 1926.

A short way up River Street nearly opposite the way leading to the "Chittenden" yard, David Torrey had a store with a hall in the second story for dancing. This was in the '40's. Mr. Torrey was the father of Deputy Sheriff Willard Torrey and David Torrey who were in the trunk manufacturing business for many years. Other sons Everett and Charles were in the marble business in Boston, Frank in Italy and his son George Howard succeeded him in the store and also ran a tailoring business. This was discontinued years ago and the building, a typical old style New England store was torn down by his grandson George E. Torrey, about twenty years ago.

Alfred Litchfield had a store at the corner of Central and Summer Street built in 1854. His sons Charles A. and Andrew ran it for a time. The property now belongs to John Whalen's daughter, and has not been used as a store for more than fifty years. Previously in an older





LANDSCAPE SCENE, CHURCH HILL

(Photograph by Jared Gardner)



## STORES AND STORE KEEPERS

building on the same property Mr. Litchfield kept store for some years, succeeding Charles Cole who formerly carried on business there.

Henry F. Ford conducted the store and postoffice at Bryant's Corner, Mt. Blue, for a long time. Later his nephew Atwood, carried it on for a time and since then there have been several owners. It has since been torn down.

Between the residences of E. H. Sparrell and Alexander Black there was a store for some years owned by Parsons Bowker. This was later moved away and made into a house.

Alpheus Damon's store at Assinippi was doing business fifty years ago and was later occupied by J. H. Leary. It has been vacant for some years.

Melvin Little, a native of Marshfield, came to Church Hill in 1867 and set up a store. He was in business continuously to 1932 a period of sixty-five years. He had a fund of anecdotes and was a very interesting man to meet.

A part of his store was at one time used as a school house and is said to be of great age. Mr. Little died in 1933.

Irving Henderson has a store on Main Street, which he built in 1927. He conducts a general store business, and his customers come from a wide area.

Austin Lincoln has a store in the square at Mount Blue. He built here and has been in business since 1917.

John H. Prouty was running a store at the "West End" soon after the close of the Civil War. He later was in Kansas for a time. He returned to Massachusetts and was for years a registrar of voters and in the real estate business. Two of his sons are officials of Norwell.



## CHAPTER XXIII

### WILDCAT AND OLD POND

**I**N the history of Scituate, written by Samuel Deane nearly one hundred years ago, he speaks of a certain hill which is located on a very little travelled wood road leading from Pleasant to Pine Streets, in what is now Norwell, as "Wild Cat Hill." To the south a large tract of swampy land extending almost to the Hanover line, once the mill pond of the Old Cornet Stetson sawmill, that was burned in the Indian raid of 1676 was referred to as "Old Pond Swamp.

Since that time this section broadly speaking, including Pleasant, Forest, Pine and Circuit streets has come to be known as "Wildcat or Old Pond." While it is now largely grown up to woods and has some of the prettiest roadways in town it was in early times the home of many of the families prominent in the town and some of the largest farms were in this locality.

Here were the homesteads of the Clapp family, Tilden, Stowers, Elijah, John and others. The John Clapp farm was a regular plantation. It stood back from the roadway and included a saw mill and blacksmith shop on the property. Just across the stream in Hanover the farm and mill later owned by Samuel Church were located. The Otises were always prominent residents here, Daniel and his son, John and Ephraim being among the later ones. John's son Joseph C., who died in 1931 was the last representative of the old families left in this locality. Here lived his great, great grandfather Dr. Ephraim Otis whose quaint old army commission signed by the members of the Colonial Council, in the absence of the Governor, is still in existence. It bears the date of 1757 and

## WILDCAT AND OLD POND

is on parchment. The site of the old Prince Otis farm on Circuit street has long since grown up to woods and few know where it is located.

The Turners, Albion, Job and Bailey held large tracts here and Albion at one time was largely interested in mills and lumber in other parts of the town. Edward H. Tindale now owns most of the Turner holdings and has extensive apple orchards on them.

Back in the Revolutionary days John Hatch was located here and had a mill on what is now part of the Tindale property. The Winslows, Tolmans, Watermans, Brooks and Gardners, were early located on the southerly side of Old Pond. The Nathaniel Turner farm still stands at the cross roads of Pine and Green Streets, and the overgrown cellars still show where once stood the Barrell, Lapham and other houses.

In very early days it was the general custom for the more well to do of the settlers to hold slaves. The Indians captured in the Indian wars were sold into slavery and African slaves were also kept. Indentured servants were, I believe, not so common here as in some parts of the colonies but the apprentice system was so strict as for a time virtually to amount to slavery. When the keeping of slaves was abandoned numbers of them settled in this section and others came from Hingham, Plymouth and the surrounding towns, so that for many years there was quite a colored settlement in this vicinity. Most of them took the names of white families where they had formerly worked so that there would be both white and colored families bearing the same name as neighbors. The vessels trading in the West Indies in many instances shipped colored sailors in those islands, some of whom settled here and eventually drifted to where the people of their own color lived. The Gunderways came from there, the Casneaus from Cuba. The Francis family were from Hingham, Cromwells from Duxbury and the names of Prince, Winslow and Sylvester were always represented.

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In slavery days the negro was usually known by a single name and to show the extent of the marriages between servants of different masters and between negroes and Indians, the marriage records of Scituate for the years 1739 and 40 will give a fairly good idea.

“Caesar, Negro of Samuel Curtis to Waste Homine, an Indian, both of Scituate.

“Primus, Negro servt. to Thomas Bryant Esq., to Dille, Negro servt. to Capt. David Clapp.

“Brisco, Negro of Capt. Barker to Judith, Negro of Samuel Jenkins.

“Lemuel Francis, Indian man of Pembroke to Meriah formerly servt. to John Barker, Esq.

“Glasco, Negro of Deacon King to Phyllis, Negro of John Cushing.

“Cuffee, Negro of Jo. Clap to Flora, Negro of Mr. Thos. Clap.”

At the corner of Circuit street and Barrell Lane the Mannings and Aunt Katy and Patty Sylvester lived for many years in a house that was burned some time ago. They were very highly thought of by the white people of the village and Uncle Peter Sylvester was well known to the people of sixty years ago, as was Tip Patterson the itinerant barber who made regular trips through the surrounding villages.

In later times Jack Ennols, known even among the colored people as Black Jack, was a character. He was a southern slave and military servant to General Paine, who after the war drifted down here and joined the colony. His old horse and phaeton were familiar figures in the streets of Norwell and Hanover for many years and everybody knew the pleasant greeting and happy laugh of Old Black Jack.

The people who once owned the old places are all gone and their children and children's children, too, are for the most part either dead or have moved away. A generation of strangers now occupy the ancestral homes.

## WILDCAT AND OLD POND

The colored settlement has dwindled down to three or four families and few people know the meaning of Wildcat or Old Pond.





## CHAPTER XXIV

### THE OLD POWDER HOUSE

**J**UST a little way from the geographical center of Scituate in the days before South Scituate was set apart from the mother town, near the corner of Winter and Parker street in what is now Norwell, is an old field now practically grown up to woods. This field was part of the Col. Charles Turner estate and for many years a queer little building known as the "Old Powder House" stood there.

Here was stored part of the town's supply of powder and ball which was kept for the use of the militia for their training days and during the war of 1812. Deane tells us that they were then called to duty at an alarm from Scituate Harbor when the British man of war, the Bulwark 74 guns, landed a party and burned some vessels, and the men from the inland towns marched to the coast to repel an expected invasion, Col. John Barstow's regiment of militia being on duty for some weeks. In later times after the militia had ceased to hold field days and drills and the supply of powder had come to be of not much importance, I was told that the boys in the neighborhood used to visit the building and "hook" powder for their guns and to use in the shooting matches which were a common source of amusement with the boys of eighty years ago. Most of them owned an old smooth bore that had been changed from flint lock to percussion by some of the local blacksmiths, Harry Merritt of the Beechwood district being noted as a gunsmith and called on for this work by people far and near. His brother, Consider, also did a great deal in this line.

Col. Charles Turner was prominent in the military and

## THE OLD POWDER HOUSE

political affairs of his day. His house stood just across from Parker street and was one of the old time mansions of that period with the turned fence posts in front surmounted with acorns. It was burned in 1845 or 6 and his sons William and Theodore each built a house on the old farm, William on the old cellar and Theodore just a bit north. William was a ship carpenter and worked at many of the yards on the river mostly with the Briggs' at Hobart's Landing.

The militia in old times played a more important part in the small towns than it does today. It is now largely confined to the larger towns and the cities, but in early days every small town had its company and training fields were set aside for their use. Several of these were located in Scituate in 1725, one at the Harbor opposite Meeting House Lane, one in the square at Norwell Village and one at Church Hill. They are all Commons today.

In 1821 Capt. Perez Turner of Scituate was in command of a company in Col. John Collamore's 2nd Regiment Massachusetts Militia. He was a son of Capt. Johnathan Turner of Revolutionary Days, one of the charter members of the Cincinnati, whose sword was, during his life, in the possession of the late deputy sheriff, John Turner of Scituate. George H. Turner of Norwell was a representative in his line in the Cincinnati, one of the very few members, in this section, of that old society formed by Washington's officers at the close of the war.

It must be understood that the young men were out for a good time in those days as well as today and taverns being fairly numerous we can draw our own conclusions as to what many of the training days meant. The uniforms were gaudy and gave the men a martial appearance. The tall black hats, high collared, brass buttoned, blue, swallow tail coats and tight fitting trousers with straps to hold them down over the boots, were very striking and were quite as attractive to the young ladies of

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those days as the khaki uniforms are to their great granddaughters of today.

Gradually interest in military affairs began to wane. The Mexican War of 1849 naturally having but few active supporters among the people of this section and the old bug-bear of possible trouble with England over boundaries, having died a natural death, at the outbreak of the Civil War it had practically ceased.

To this day the lot of land where the "Old Powder House" stood is known to a very few of the older residents as the "Powder House Lot" but not many people know the reason. Like other landmarks of the past it was gradually forgotten. And the men of those days, they too are forgotten.

For a long time across the highway, in the corner of the wall, a gigantic buttonwood tree seemed to stand as sentinel on guard and up to within a very few years the decayed and hollow trunk was still on duty. That too, has now disappeared.



## CHAPTER XXV

### CUFFEE LANE AND ACADIANS

**L**EADING off Mt. Blue Street, Norwell, nearly opposite the Charles Bates house, is a narrow cart path that has for a century and a half been known to the townspeople as "Cuffee Lane." This lane goes back into the dense woods and cedar swamps which surround Black pond, a queer little pond that probably very few of the inhabitants of the town have ever seen.

About a quarter of a mile from the highway just after it crosses the Black pond brook this lane skirts a little clearing consisting of two old fields that have only partially grown up to underbrush and there is where the Cuff Grandison farm, or plantation, was located.

One day soon after the Revolution, a typical Southern negro, accompanied by a white woman, appeared in town and settled in this place. Nobody knew from whence they came, but it was generally believed that it was from the far South, and all sorts of stories were told regarding them and who they were. It was at one time thought that the man was a runaway slave and the woman the wife or daughter of his master.

Later it was rumored that they came from the western part of the State and that the man had served in the Continental army from the town of Adams. Paying no heed to their neighbors, they proceeded to set up an establishment. The land was cleared and gradually people ceased to wonder about them and they lived their lives and ended their days in their little place in the woods. Cuff Grandison died in 1810 and the records say that the "Widow Cuff Grandison died in 1825." There was a son, Reuben, and daughters Harriet and Abigail. Simeon, who



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died in 1825 may have been his son, although it is not clear in the records. A son of Simeon and Mary named Charles was married in 1829 to Harriet S. Freeman. This Charles Grandison was one of the characters of his time. He owned what is now the Bates farm at the head of the lane and his fathers and grandfather's old place.

Charles Grandison was a great worker and the huge piles of stones along the walls attest to that fact. It was his ambition to equal and if possible excel his white neighbors and he was very much respected by them. There were three daughters in the family, but unfortunately one was born blind, another deaf and dumb and the other became blind. Realizing their helpless position, just before his death, Mr. Grandison deeded his farm to the town and the family were cared for at the almshouse. One of them, Abby, lived for many years.

This is how Cuffee Lane obtained its name and there is another interesting fact connected with it. When the Acadian exiles were scattered along the coast towns in 1755-56, some of the few who were billeted in the town of Scituate were in the keeping of Joseph Clapp, whose farm was on this little lane and years before the feet of Cuff Grandison trod this path the feet of the Acadian wanderers had already known it, but as far as can be learned no traces of them are left in the town. They were probably only here a short time. There is a tradition that the woodshed which is a part of the Minot Williamson house and which is very old, was one of the huts where they were quartered, it being later moved and attached to this house as an ell. It was on the property of Joseph Clapp, who had them in charge.

Like many of the white families prominent in Colonial days, the name of Grandison has ceased to be known in this town and it is only a few of the older people who can recollect the stories of early days that were so common a couple of generations ago.

## CHAPTER XXVI

### OLD BLACKSMITH SHOPS

**I**N the last twenty-five years garages have steadily become more numerous, until they are now to be found in every village and at almost every cross road, ministering to the needs of the traveling public. In the same space of time the old blacksmith shops, which were necessary to the traveling public of former days and which had remained almost unchanged for more than a century, have one after another disappeared.

The present generation can hardly realize what a part these old shops played in the life and comfort of people of even forty years ago.

In the days of horses and oxen they were indispensable and the smiths were busy rain or shine. It was the usual thing on stormy days, when no outside work could be done, for the men on the outlying farms to hitch up and drive to the blacksmith's to have the horse shod or some necessary repair work done. The shop would be filled with wet and steaming horses and their owners would be gathered around the stove swapping yarns and discussing the politics and affairs of the day.

The shops of those times were different in some respects from the few that are in use today. In those days the fires were blown by old-fashioned bellows which the blacksmith or his helper worked by means of a lever. Now electric motors and steel forges are used. Another feature that many of the old shops had was the ox frame. This was a heavy structure with a sling attachment and an arrangement something like a pillory into which the ox was hauled by a rope fastened around the horns. The frame was then closed over its neck, the sling passed un-

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der its body and it was lifted nearly off its feet. In this position it was ready for shoeing as a front foot on one side and a hind foot on the other could be lifted at the same time, enabling two men to work instead of one. While this arrangement was not very uncomfortable, yet the oxen quite often thrashed and moaned as if they were in agony and the structure had to be very strong to hold them.

Before the rolling machine to bend tires came into use the blacksmith had a difficult task to bend the heavy tires for the big wagon wheels. One method was to set a couple of eye bolts into a large rock, put a round piece of iron through the eyes and lay the straight iron bar under this, then gradually slide it along, lifting one end all the time and one man striking with a sledge until it became almost round, the ends were brought together and welded. It was then ready to be "set" on the wheels. If the tires were very heavy they were usually laid on the ground outside the shop and a fire built over them. This was a quicker and easier method of expanding heavy tires than over a forge.

In the Sparrell wood lot a little way from the village there is quite a large flat ledge. In the center of it are two old eye bolts firmly bedded in the rock. These bolts were placed there by Consider Merritt nearly a hundred years ago and were used for bending tires. They were quite a distance from his shop but this was the nearest ledge and cement foundations were not heard of in those days. As long ago as 1880 people who saw them wondered what they were for and who placed them there.

Just at the eastern end of the triangle at Assinippi the old "Alger" shop stood for more than sixty years. Originally a mill building located at the foot of Assinippi Hill, it was purchased by a company of local farmers and a blacksmith installed for the convenience of the village. For several years Mr. Shea had charge of it. Sixty years ago Frank Alger purchased the property on Memorial Day. The shop is just over the line in Hanover, but



## OLD BLACKSMITH SHOPS

served the people of that part of Norwell and for a time Mr. Alger lived in Norwell. He was the last surviving member of Post 112, G. A. R.

Near the site of the "Old Half Way House" on the stage road, stood the old "Gardner" shop. It was last occupied by Edward W. Gardner, who died twelve years ago, and was previously owned by his father, Horatio Gardner and the business carried on by him, part of the time in company with Henry Shute.

The old "Glover" shop was standing near the corner of Washington and Pond Streets seventy-five years ago.

David Henry Stoddard conducted a shop at Mann's Corner for a number of years before his death a few years ago.

On the "Hill" at Norwell village the Merritts, Consider and sons, Joseph and William H., had a shop as early as 1843. The building is still standing and is now part of Sparrell's garage. Later William moved to Central street and built a shop near his house there. Joseph continued the business during his lifetime. Thomas O. Hayden, a native of Cohasset, worked for Mr. Merritt for twenty years and continued for a time on his own account. He was the last blacksmith there.

The Robert W. MacDonald shop on the road to Greenbush is comparatively modern and was established by him near its present location about thirty-nine years ago. It is the only blacksmith shop still running in Norwell.

Charles W. Tilden built a blacksmith, wheelwright and paint shop on the "Hill" in 1876. Thomas and Thaddeus A. Lawrence ran the paint shop and Freeman Higgins the wheelwright. Mr. Tilden continued the blacksmith business to the time of his death in 1929.

Down on Central Street near Sherman's Corner, Thomas J. Studley ran a shop for many years. The business was established by his father, William Studley, who was a famous wagon maker in those days. Both father and son, also conducted an undertaking business.



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Harry Merritt of Summer Street was a skilful blacksmith and gun smith eighty years ago. His son Henry, learned the trade and located in Hingham. Albert Litchfield ran the shop for a time.

In very early times some of the larger farms had small shops on the place, the Joshua James, John Clapp, Barton Jacobs and some of the shipyards also had them. The Ira Barker shop at Church Hill was running eighty years ago.



## CHAPTER XXVII

### AN OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

IT is interesting to note how, in many instances a certain family may be connected with a town or locality for several generations, how history will repeat itself and, as each generation goes by, that family will continue to be prominent in the social, political and religious life of the community, always having a representative in the town government, influential workers in the church and being at the front in the business and social activities of the place as well. Then a day will come when by death and removals it will come about that there are none of the name left, but for many years the oldest inhabitants will hark back and tell the virtues of the departed until finally nobody will remember that such people ever existed and it is only in the old records, that any trace of them remains. Such a family was the James family of Scituate and South Scituate.

One of the first of the name to settle here was John James, who purchased a part of the Elder Henry Cobb grant, situated just above where Union Bridge is now located, on the Norwell side of the river. Ephraim Kempton, who owned the lot in 1655 sold his holdings and moved from town. The location of the James estate was at the bend of the river where for many years the family of John P. Henderson have made their home. Here for nearly 200 years the James family lived and prospered. It is one of the most beautiful sites along the river and is the center of much that is of local historic interest. A never failing spring of pure water gushes out of a fissure in a granite ledge on the place. Within a stone's throw is the site of the "Old Block House" where the people con-

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

gregated at the time of King Philip's war, and here it was that the first John James was mortally wounded in a raid that the Indians made into Scituate in that war. A short distance away was the John Bryant farm and grist mill that ground the corn for the settlers and the "Bisbee" tavern was near. The "Old Foster House", tavern, store, hall and meeting place was a little way down the road. The family was always religious and the records show that there were four generations of Deacon John James connected with the church. They were also very energetic people as well and from very early times were connected with the shipbuilding industry. One of them settled at the south of Coleman's Hill. The place once owned by the Gillis family was originally a "James" house.

William James, Jr., who was born in 1789 and died in 1854, was one of the most prominent men of his day and generation in the town. His activities were many and varied. He was one of the largest land-owners and farmers, a shipbuilder and ship owner, being connected with David Torrey in building at the "Block House Yard," and other yards on the river, and was the first secretary of the "Old Scituate Institution for Savings," and its president for nine years. He was also very active in town affairs. His farm was at what is now the corner of Main and Winter Streets, Norwell, and the property of Henry D. Atwater. One of his daughters married Edward H. Delano, a native of South Scituate and chief naval constructor at the Charlestown Navy Yard during the Civil War, and some time at Pensacola. The family of Joshua James and wife Sarah, were the last of the name to occupy the old homestead on the river. The children were Emily, born in 1819; Helen, born in 1823; and Alfred, born in 1827. Emily was a school teacher and was very active in the Unitarian church, a teacher in the Sunday school and very prominent in all social affairs. She was a beautiful writer and when the town of Scituate was divided and the old records copied and filed with the clerk of South Scituate she, Miss Mary A. Cole and Mrs. Mary L.







THOMAS BRYANT HOUSE  
Lower Main Street, Built 1698. Now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard  
D. McMullan.  
(Cut copyrighted, and loaned by Scituate Historical Society)



KITCHEN OF BRYANT HOUSE  
Restored by Professor A. S. Dewing.  
(Both photographs on this page were taken by Col. Charles W. Furlong.  
Each is copyrighted.)

## AN OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

Beal were chosen to make the copies. It was a fine piece of work and a revelation to the present generation who are more familiar with the typewriter than the pen.

Nearby stood the home of Rev. Samuel J. May, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Power. Mr. May was a celebrated anti-slavery advocate and temperance worker and one of the famous preachers of his time. He was the minister of the Second church of Scituate for five years from 1836 to 1841 and it was during his time that the first temperance wave was sweeping over the country. He formed a cold water army among the young people and they marched through the streets with banners and music, and held meetings after the manner of the times. Some of the banners are in existence today and are very quaint, and as I write one of the badges, which each of the young people had, is before me. It is of white silk with two engravings, one a fountain, the other an old fashioned well sweep, and boys and girls marching around them. At the top, the words, "Cold Water Army" and below, the pledge—"So here we pledge perpetual hate to all that can intoxicate."

This was not altogether pleasing to some of the older people who liked their liquor and it is said that one of his prominent parishioners refused for a time to go to hear Mr. May preach. But with the broadminded courtesy for which he was noted, Mr. May always sent word to this man when he exchanged with other ministers in the district, so that he could come, and in time the man became one of his friends. In those days there were seats way up in the back of the gallery where the colored people sat. They were not allowed to sit down in the body of the meeting house. This custom Mr. May criticised in no uncertain terms and it was finally abandoned. In spite of his advanced views he was liked by the people and never entered into the denominational controversies which were so common at that time. He was friendly with the other sects and it is told that when he was in charge of a parish in another state that he was particularly friendly with



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

the Catholic priest who was a near neighbor. Hoping to start a theological discussion someone said to this priest "Your friend Mr. May is a good man, it is a pity that he is not a Catholic so he could go to heaven." "Ah" responded the priest, "Never fear there will be a special provision made for Mr. May."

Rev. William P. Tilden was, during his boyhood, a neighbor of the James, his family being at one time where the "Old Block House" once stood and later on the main road.

Squire Samuel A. Turner, who was very prominent in town affairs in the early part of the last century, was also a next door neighbor.

Edward Southworth, who was well known in the politics of his time lived in an old James and Jacobs house, just down Winter Street.

Many of the family names were pronounced quite differently in olden times. Damon was "Dammon;" Farrar "Farrow;" Northey, "Nothey" and others in like manner.



## CHAPTER XXVIII

# MILLS AND FACTORIES

### The Bryant Mill

**A**BOUT the year 1690 John Bryant built a grist mill on the Second Herring Brook about ten rods west of his house, in what is now Norwell village. From that time until January 24, 1927, there has been a mill at this location and, in fact, certain portions of the original structure were still standing. The grist mill was used as such until early in the last century. About 1770 a saw mill was added to it by either Thomas Sylvester or Hawkes Cushing. From what I can learn I think it was the former. Forty-five years ago this part was torn down and replaced by another structure while the property was owned by David W. Turner & Son. The Proutys, Deacon Thomas Cushing, Thomas Tolman, Joseph Merritt and Joseph Merritt, and Benjamin P. Foster, and Messrs. Norris and Carson are among those who have at different times owned it. In ancient times the "Up River" road crossed between the mill and Mr. Bryant's house and followed back of John Blackhall's house until it came to the present roadway. In the field just south of Bryant's first house the Second Parish once voted to build their new meeting house when they removed from their old location near the head of Bridge street to the hill just a bit southeast of the site they now occupy. A later vote rescinded this action. For many years this mill was very important to the people of the village and for several generations it had been considered a landmark, people being very sorry when it was burned. Of the four mills originally on the stream, not one is standing today.



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### **Chittenden Saw Mill**

Further down the stream on the property of William E. Mills is the old dam which marks the site of a saw mill which was built very early and of which little is known. It was thought to have been built by one of the Bryants and that the old well and the cellar which are quite near indicate the location of his house.

### **Torrey Saw Mill**

On Mill Lane is the dam where up to a few years ago stood the Torrey saw mill. This was used by the Torrey Bros., David, Willard and Everett for many years and earlier by Albion Turner and others. For a further description see chapter on Mill Lane. The dam which is still standing was built on the location of an old beaver dam. Lemuel Turner, father of Albion, built it around 1800.

### **Samuel A. Turner Mill**

North of Dead Swamp is the dam and pond where the Squire Sam Turner mill was located. This was in the Turner family for several generations. B. F. Atwood of Whitman and Ashburton Pinson were later owners. Robert Fuller is the present owner of the property. This mill was used originally by Samuel A. Turner, who built it, as a shingle mill. J. Frank Turner added a saw mill and also manufactured lobster pots in his time. Samuel A. Turner built the mill in 1834.

### **Stockbridge - Hackett Mill**

It is somewhat doubtful whether this mill was located in Scituate or in South Scituate, but it was generally thought to have been in both towns. This was situated in the Mt. Blue section on what was in old times called Groundsell Brook. Samuel Stockbridge moved into that district from the lower part of Scituate in 1752. He built the first mill there which was owned by the family for many years. Other local families have at times run it. Joseph Hackett, a Maine lumberman, later acquired





BRYANT-TURNER-MERRITT GRIST AND SAW MILL  
On Second Herring Brook



## MILLS AND FACTORIES

it, he and his son Wallace carried on business there for many years. Richardson Bros. were making boxes there in the early 1900's and were the last to occupy it, about 1917.

### Galen Damon Mills

Galen Damon owned a saw mill just off Summer Street which was later purchased by Seth Foster and Charles A. Litchfield. John Whalen and Joseph F. Merritt who later acquired the site, sold it to the Scituate Water Company.

A short distance up the stream Mr. Damon built a grist mill which was reached by a cartway from Cedar Street. The old mill stones are now the door stones of his great grandson's house in Scituate.

### Wind Mill

There was a wind mill a few rods south of the site of the present Unitarian church, which was built, according to Deane in 1726. It was torn down in 1830 at about the time the church was built.

### Turner - Hatch Grist Mill

Margaret's Brook is a small brook which has its source in Hoop pole swamp and was so called for a woman whose farm was back in the woods from Professor Woods' place, in early times, the Benson farm. It finally flows through Old Pond into the Third Herring Brook. A little way up Pleasant street near the site of the Miles Turner House, which was burned on April 21, 1894, John Hatch had a grist mill in Revolutionary days. It later became the property of Elijah Turner and his son Bailey Turner, the father of Miles S. Turner. The Hatches and Turners were large land owners in that section in early days, but the Hatches disappeared seventy-five years before the Turners. The mill has been gone for a hundred years, but up to a short time ago the mill stones were resting in the stream where they dropped when the mill went to pieces.



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### **Jacobs Saw and Grist Mill**

The Jacobs Mill at Assinippi on the boundary line of Norwell and Hanover was the furthest one up stream on the Third Herring Brook. It was both a saw and grist mill and was situated on both sides of the stream. It was built by Joshua Jacobs about 1730, and was burned July 4, 1920. The Jacobs family held possession of it for nearly two hundred years and it was a land mark that was greatly missed. The land is still in the possession of a lineal descendant, Dr. Henry B. Jacobs.

### **John Clapp Saw Mill**

This mill was situated on the site of a very old mill said to have been built in 1653. John Clapp who owned the farm now owned by Gustaf Peterson was using the mill fifty years ago, but it has been torn down for twenty years. Alonzo Henderson used it for a time.

### **Samuel Church Grist and Saw Mill**

This mill dates back to about 1690, and was originally built by the Curtis family. It came into possession of T. J. Gardner and was held by his heirs for many years. Samuel Church was the last to use it. He ran the grist mill long after all the other old grist mills in this section had been abandoned except perhaps the one at Greenbush. It is only this present year of 1937 that the old mill was burned, the last of the old time mills in town.

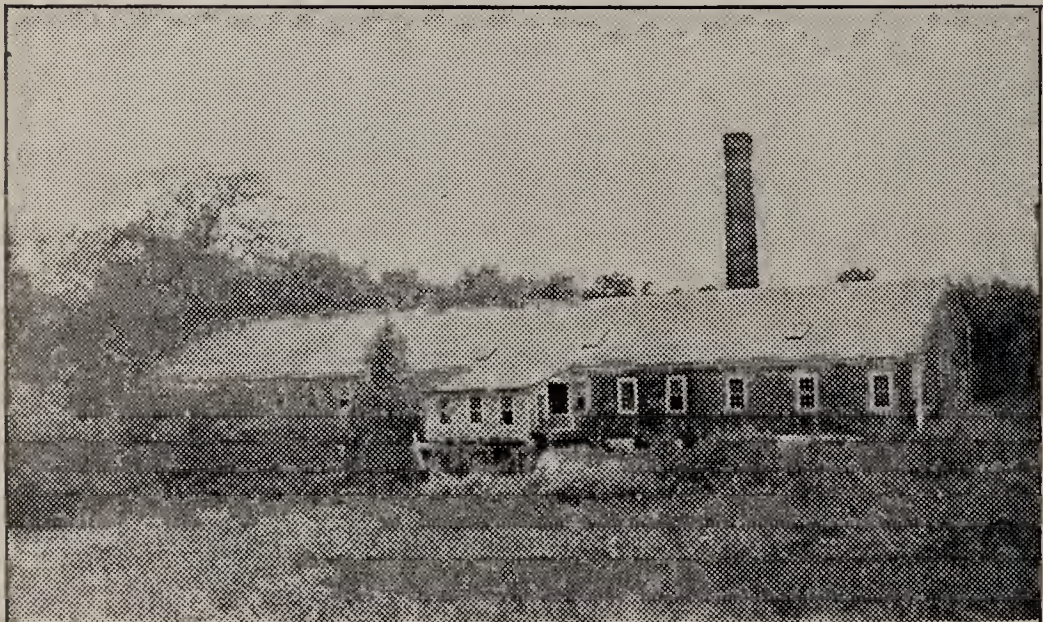
### **Cornet Stetson Mill**

Just a little way upstream from Winslow's Bridge, at the junction of Tiffany Road and East Street, are the remains of the dam built for the Cornet Stetson mill that was built in 1656 and burned in the Indian raid of 1676. This dam, while standing, caused the flooding of an immense tract of low land known as "Old Pond," extending back for nearly a mile.





OLD PLANE SHOP  
River Street. Proprietors Tolman & Merritt. Shop stood near  
top of Delano Hill, for 60 years.



SALMOND TACK FACTORY  
On Third Herring Brook, on a site where manufacturing has been  
carried on for 200 years. Still in active operation, under direction  
of Samuel Salmond Sylvester



## MILLS AND FACTORIES

### **Tolman Tack Factory**

A little below the bridge is the site of the Capt. Samuel Tolman Tack Factory, built by him in 1837. He also ran a saw and grist mill.

### **Charles Simmons Saw Mill**

This mill, as water mills go, was of comparatively recent date. It was built by Charles Simmons about fifty years ago and was used by himself and sons, Charles and William. While the property of Walter S. Crane the mill was burned. This is the Jonah Stetson mill site, dating far back into Colonial days.

### **Tolman's Mill**

Joseph R. Tolman built a mill on a tributary of Till's or Dwelley's Creek back in the early part of the last century. His son, Thomas J. Tolman, began to manufacture wooden planes and used this mill for several years. He later had a factory on the street near his house, with steam power, and abandoned the old water mill. In the days before the Civil War and for 20 years thereafter the Tolman planes were known all over the country and were used by both house and ship carpenters. Iron planes have now entirely supplanted them. Charles H. Merritt was a partner of Mr. Tolman for years and he, with the Tolman heirs, continued the business until 1893.

### **Lyman W. Lincoln Mill**

Lyman Lincoln has a mill on Lincoln Street, Mount Blue. He has been in the lumber business for the past twenty-five years. His motive power is a Diesel engine.

### **Ashburton W. Pinson**

Ashburton Pinson was in the lumber business for many years and handled a great deal of lumber. His mill on Winter Street burned a few years ago. Mr. Pinson employed a number of men, and became to be known as an expert in timber products.



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### **Litchfield Shoe Factory**

John R. Litchfield built a shop on Norwell Avenue, and began to manufacture shoes, about 1870. From time to time he enlarged this shop and did a thriving business. The business was later taken over by his son, George W. H. Litchfield, who continued to enlarge the building until he had an up-to-date, three story factory and employed over one hundred men. Mr. Litchfield senior died in 1889 and his son in 1901. The business was discontinued and the shop torn down.

### **Tilden Shoe Factory**

The Alonzo Tilden shoe factory at the corner of Winter and Cross Streets was built by him in 1877. It was one of the middle sized factories of that period and employed about fifteen hands. The Tilden brothers and Wilbur Nichols carried on business for several years, but with the removal of Alonzo to Philadelphia, it was given up and Amos H. Tilden, one of the brothers, has owned the building a number of years. It was destroyed by fire July 4, 1938

### **Accord Chemical Company**

The plant of the Accord Chemical Company, manufacturers of shoe factory specialties and other chemical products was established on Washington Street by Alfred H. McLeod in 1928. It is a busy spot. The business has brought several families to town.

### **Sparrell Funeral Service**

One of the oldest business enterprises in town and one that has been carried on by the same family for more than one hundred and eighteen years, was first established by James N. Sparrell about the year 1820. Mr. Sparrell began making coffins at his place on Central Street. Later he did carpenter work and building, made shoe boxes and still continued to make coffins. His son who succeeded him established the Charles W. Sparrell Undertaking business carrying on until his death in 1906.

## MILLS AND FACTORIES

From this beginning the Sparrell Funeral Service, the largest establishment of its kind on the South Shore is now being conducted by a grandson of the original founder, Ernest H. Sparrell.

### Salmond Tack Factory

The site of this factory was first used for a grist mill that was said to have been built by Charles Stockbridge. The Stockbridge family played a very important part in the story of the mills in Scituate in early times. Recompense Tiffany later ran the mill and the street and pond are still known by that name. Capt. Zephaniah Talbot and Capt. Samuel Salmond later, about 1834, established tack works and Edmund Q. Sylvester, a son-in-law of Capt. Salmond, in time became a member of the firm. He finally became sole owner and at his death, his sons Joseph S. and Albert L., ran the business for a number of years. It is now carried on by Albert's son, Samuel Sylvester.

Through a long term of years the business has gone under the name of "Samuel Salmond & Sons." It is the only manufacturing industry that has survived in town for over a hundred years and is still going strong.

### David Torrey Trunk Factory

This factory was located on River Street and was originally the Universalist church at Duxbury which Mr. Torrey purchased and moved to South Scituate. After Mr. Torrey's death it was taken down again and removed to the National Fire Works in Hanover. For a number of years Mr. Torrey manufactured trunks employing from fifteen to twenty-five men regularly. The wages in those days ranged from \$1.75 per day for foremen and \$1.50 for skilled workmen down to 75 cents for young men. According to an old pay roll book for the years, 1879 to 1882, the following townspeople of that time found regular employment there:

Martin S. Curtis, foreman; Joseph W. Briggs, Walter

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H. Briggs, Luther W. Flint, Charles Sylvester, Roswell Curtis, Urban Percival, Andrew Green, Michael Lynch, Fred Freeman, Seth H. Vinal, Lorenzo Bates, Lewis Stephens, Charles Walker, William Flint, Henry Litchfield, Andrew Green, Oscar Green, John Tilden, William Danforth, James Leslie, Patrick Leslie, George Bennett, Frank Baker, Edwin B. Torrey, Calvin Cromwell, Ira Sanborn, Seth O. Fitts, Frank Talbot, Thomas Leslie.



## CHAPTER XXIX

# GUNDALOW DAYS ON NORTH RIVER

**W**HEN the settlers who first came into the territory bordering the North River began to keep cattle and horses, they were obliged to depend almost entirely on the marsh grass that grew along its banks, to feed them. We are told that there was very little cleared or open land in this section of the country, and it was all they could do for some years, to clear enough to raise crops for themselves, without sowing any of the English grasses as forage for the cattle. Thus the meadows and flats of the river were considered very valuable and were eagerly sought after in the allotment of lands that the "comitys" (committees) of the freemen of the towns of Scituate, and Marshfield apportioned to the different families. It was only a short time before every inch of meadow-land along the river was taken and as years went by the owners dug ditches to help drain the water off quickly, making them more valuable.

After a time transfers began to be made, and divisions of estates brought it about that in many instances people who owned the meadows lived some distance from them. They were for the most part surveyed and the rights of way many of them had over adjoining property were in many cases bones of contention and litigation and are even to this day.

Almost all of the old families have in their possession deeds dating back a hundred years or more showing where some of their ancestors purchased so many acres of meadow land on the "First Herring Brook", at "Wills Island",



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“Pincin Bank”, or some equally well-known locality of river history.

The price of meadows in those days was around \$50 an acre, but today conditions have so changed that \$5.00 an acre is in most instances all they will bring. Many are not assessed and numbers of people own meadows or parts of meadows they have never seen and could not locate if they wished.

The towns of Norwell and Hanover still own some flats on the lower river, which used to be good property but which are now just a taxable source of income for the Town of Scituate wherein they are located.

The meadows above Little’s Bridge are in most instances comparatively accessible from the shore, and the hay, after it was cut was bunched and poled to the upland where it could be carted away. Some of the meadows were harder and dryer than others and horses with large wooden shoes, called meadow shoes, bolted over the hoofs, could be used, which helped very much.

Below where the railroad bridge crosses the river, the marshes stretched for long distances from which the hay could not be conveniently poled or carted ashore, and here is where the gundalow figured.

Gundalows were in use on the river from very early times. They were large flat bottomed boats from 30 to 40 feet long and about 10 or 12 foot beam, sometimes square ended like a scow, and sometimes sharp at the bow like a boat. They drew very little water and would carry from 3 to 8 tons of hay. They were propelled by a pair of long oars or sweeps, near the bow, or by poles, and were steered by an oar over the stern. There was a short deck aft for the use of the steersman and another forward.

Some of them were equipped with a sail which sometimes helped along and all of them carried a 20 foot gang plank over which the men poled the hay aboard and which held the boat away from the bank and prevented it getting aground if the tide was running out. A tow line

## GUNDALOW DAYS ON NORTH RIVER

could be used in coming up the river above Little's Bridge, but below, it was customary to row and push.

Either loaded or empty, they were unwieldy, and the crews tried to take advantage of the tide as much as possible, even if it meant a long wait. There was no eight-hour day in the gundalow game of those days. A good crew was five men, one to steer and two on each oar, or if it was towing, one man in the bow to fend off and three on the tow line. Less than five was to be short handed and if there were a couple of boys to help and rake scatters, so much the better.

There were a number of men who made a regular practice of gundalowing in the summer and who could be hired by the different farmers when making a trip. Some of them came to be regular fixtures of certain boats and expected to be hired with the boat.

Charles Mann, who lived at the top of "Wilson Hill," did a great deal of this work for many years and Briggs in his "Shipbuilding on the North River," speaks of "Uncle Jerry Gunderway" an old colored man who always went. Uncle Jerry lived at one time in a little shanty at the mouth of the Second Herring Brook, by the "Chittenden yard." It is a very beautiful spot with a splendid view up river. We are told by a very old lady that when she was a little girl an old woman said to be part Indian lived in this house and sold baskets through the village. Her name was Lucy Stewart. This house probably dated back to the days when the "Randalls" and "Chittendens" built there and was perhaps used by the workmen. It has long since disappeared. The well near by is still used by the present owners of the property, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Mills.

Many of the people at Assinippi owned flats on the lower river and in August and September the big ox teams of the Jacobs families and others, would crawl along the highways to the landings and the meadows in Scituate, early in the morning, and would come back over the "Hill" at South Scituate late at night with big loads of hay, the

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driver sitting on the wagon tongue, the team being headed for home and requiring no attention, two yokes of oxen and a horse on ahead; making a day of eighteen hours or more. Much of the carting by ox team in summer was at night as it was cooler for the oxen and green-head flies and mosquitoes near the marshes were at times almost unbearable.

In the early days, gundalowing was carried on way up river but it was soon abandoned and in later times Union Bridge was the last landing used for hay, accommodating the North Marshfield and South Scituate farmers, the bulk of the hay carried by scow being landed at "Little's Bridge" or "Cole's Landing."

The Duxbury and Cohasset Railroad Bridge was built quite close to the water and it was always a thorn in the flesh of the old river men as a loaded boat could not pass under at high tide. It is rather too bad that conditions that compelled the railroad to raise their road-bed over the meadow and their bridge, in order to save them, came too late to help the ones who would have appreciated it so much.

The grasses of the upper river were different from those of the lower. The up river meadows were usually referred to as blue grass meadows and down river there was grass, sedge, salt and prick ear with the black grass predominating. These were the names by which they were known to the farmers. The writer does not vouch for their correctness.

It was great fun for the boys to go on the trips as there was good fishing for perch and shiners, the fish following the boat to feed on the crickets and grasshoppers that were continually hopping off the hay into the water and the bathing in the brackish water of the lower river was better than that farther up.

Chandler Clapp of Greenbush owned a gundalow that he rented and kept at what was known as "Cole's Landing" on the First Herring Brook. This landing was across the road from the Nicholas Wherity place and on what is



## GUNDALOW DAYS ON NORTH RIVER

now the location of the Boston Sand and Gravel Co. A great deal of hay was landed here.

Hatch Carver built and ran a boat from the wharf at Little's Bridge. This boat was lap streak, very serviceable, and was in use for many years being in later times owned by Freeman Damon, who lived at this landing, and carried hundreds of tons of hay. At one time it was the only boat for hire on the river and was spoken for many days in advance. It went to pieces on the meadows, having been moored back of the Nelson Farm since the '98 storm.

Enos Stoddard had built for his own private use, by Arthur F. Rogers, a 30 foot lap streak boat. This he used for some years, but it was finally broken up.

Briggs tells of the three gundalows built by Cummings Litchfield at Union Bridge. They bore the fantastic names of Eureka, Red Rover and Sea Boy. The last one, the Sea Boy, was for many years on the landing near the bridge. It finally went to pieces.

E. E. Henderson of North Marshfield, when a young man owned a large gundalow and boated a great deal of hay to the Union Bridge Landing.

George and Charles Sylvester owned a small gundalow which they moored at the mouth of the Second Herring Brook and every year made many trips. It was unlike the usual type, had a keel and was quite narrow. It was very useful in navigating the small creeks and "guzzles" and could be taken where the larger boats could not go.

John Turner and son Frank built a very large square ended scow at Union Bridge. This they ran about ten years. It would carry two hundred bunches of hay and was locally known as the "Jumbo" after the big elephant Barnum had just brought from the London Zoo.

The Henderson boys, Fred and Bert, the ones who lost their lives in the '98 storm, had a large square ended gundalow built and used it for several years. They made a regular business of haying, the boat being big enough to



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

carry the horses, mowing machine and rake to the flats. They were the only ones, I believe, to carry on the business in this way.

This was one of the last boats in use on the river and in the storm in which its owners were drowned, it went adrift and was the means of saving the lives of the Clapp boys of Greenbush who were in a little boat. They managed to overtake it and reach the railroad bridge and safety.

The word gundalow is not in the dictionary and many people have wondered at its derivation. Most agree that it is a local pronunciation of the word gondola, although it is a far call from the gondolas of Venice we read about, and the clumsy, useful boats of the river, but they filled their place in the early order of things. As gundalows they were known by the men that used them, and as gundalows they should be remembered, now that they are no more.



## CHAPTER XXX

### FISHING ON THE RIVER

**B**Y a special act of the Legislature passed May 19, 1854, the inhabitants of Pembroke, Scituate, Marshfield and South Scituate were allowed to take, with ten seines only and on certain days, the herring and other fish that came up the river. Marshfield had four privileges and the other towns two each. It was the custom for the towns at the annual town meeting to sell the rights at auction; they quite often brought a hundred dollars or more apiece and the competition was quite strong. Today the towns get perhaps from two to five dollars a right and the whole affair is regarded as a joke.

In those days at certain intervals along the banks of the river one would see little fish houses where the fish were cured, and clumsy windlasses or capstans to haul the seines, which were much heavier than those in use today.

Another method of fishing was by sweep net through the ice and the outfit consisted of an old-fashioned hand sled with a net about six feet in diameter and fastened to a twenty-foot pole. Two men would skate along dragging the heavy net after them until they came to one of the holes they wished to fish and they would then put in the net and sweep around. Working against the tide was hard work, but swinging with it was easy. If the fishermen had no luck in one place they would take up the net, cut a new hole and try in another place. Often the men would go nearly the whole length of the river in the course of an evening.

Sometimes good hauls of white perch were made and shipped to the Boston markets. Spearing for eels was another method of fishing and was sometimes done

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE—NORWELL

through the ice and sometimes from a boat. Fifty years ago, leaning against the fences along the river, could be seen a number of these heavy nets and eel spears just where the owners left them when the river broke up. By the middle of March, just as soon as the ice left the ponds, the smelt came into the brooks and many of the old people who had lived along the river all their lives were accustomed to dip for them with a small, fine net about eighteen inches in diameter. The night had to be pretty dark in order to catch any as the fish were said to be very shy. This method of fishing was against the law, but the fish were never sold and the fishermen were not often molested, although it was the custom for the towns to appoint brook watches in those days. It was a pleasure for the old men to get together in the fishing shanties and swap stories of by-gone days, and it was a rare treat indeed for the boys who were sometimes allowed to listen.

When the brook school of herring came, about the last of May or early in June, the youngsters had a great time as the ditches and brooks were at times absolutely filled with them. They would scale the wasteways at the mills to reach ponds above. It was the law that wasteways should be kept open between April 10 and May 15 to allow the fish to reach their ancient spawning grounds. In Pembroke the town was obliged to carry a certain number of herring into the ponds above the dams. In the old Colonial laws the alewives or herrings played an important part.

Since the storm of 1898, which opened a new mouth to the river, more of the salt water fish have come up and during the past year of 1937, numbers of striped bass have been caught. The State Fish and Game Commission have stocked the tributaries of both the Second and Third Herring Brooks with trout and have also released a number of herring in the upper ponds, of the Second Herring Brook.

## CHAPTER XXXI

# ASSINIPPI AND WEST END

### Assinippi

**A**SSINIPPI is an old name, said to mean Rocky Water, given by the Indians to a branch of the Third Herring Brook. In this locality the families of Jacobs, Farrar, Collamore, Simmons, Curtis, Damon, Briggs, Grose, Jones, Stowell and Loring have, for generations, been leading residents.

The portion of Assinippi north-westerly from Assinippi Hill to Ridge Hill, was, in days long forgotten, referred to as Gilman Plain, so named for a family that once lived there.

The drive through this section is most beautiful, the mill pond and old farm house of Dr. Jacobs making a picture which carries one back to early times. Until within a very few years the old mill with its curious up and down saw, added picturesqueness, as did, also, the great oak at the site, around which clustered traditions which told of its being scarred by a fire set by the Indians in the raid of 1676.

The original Jacobs house, known to recent generations as the Barton Jacobs place, is now owned by Dr. Henry B. Jacobs of Baltimore, who maintains it in its original condition, with miles of old stone walls. Thomas Leavitt, of Assinippi Avenue, has made a show place, because of the beautiful flowers, of the Elisha Jacobs place. "Sargent's", well known as a cafe is the Thomas Jacobs place. Next door is the Edward Jacobs place, built of brick, by a brick-maker.

The Collamore family, descendants of Capt. Anthony



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Collamore of Scituate, were at one time, very numerous and they had large holdings of land on Gilman Plain. The first John Collamore settled here about 1732. His son, Enoch, ran a tavern here.

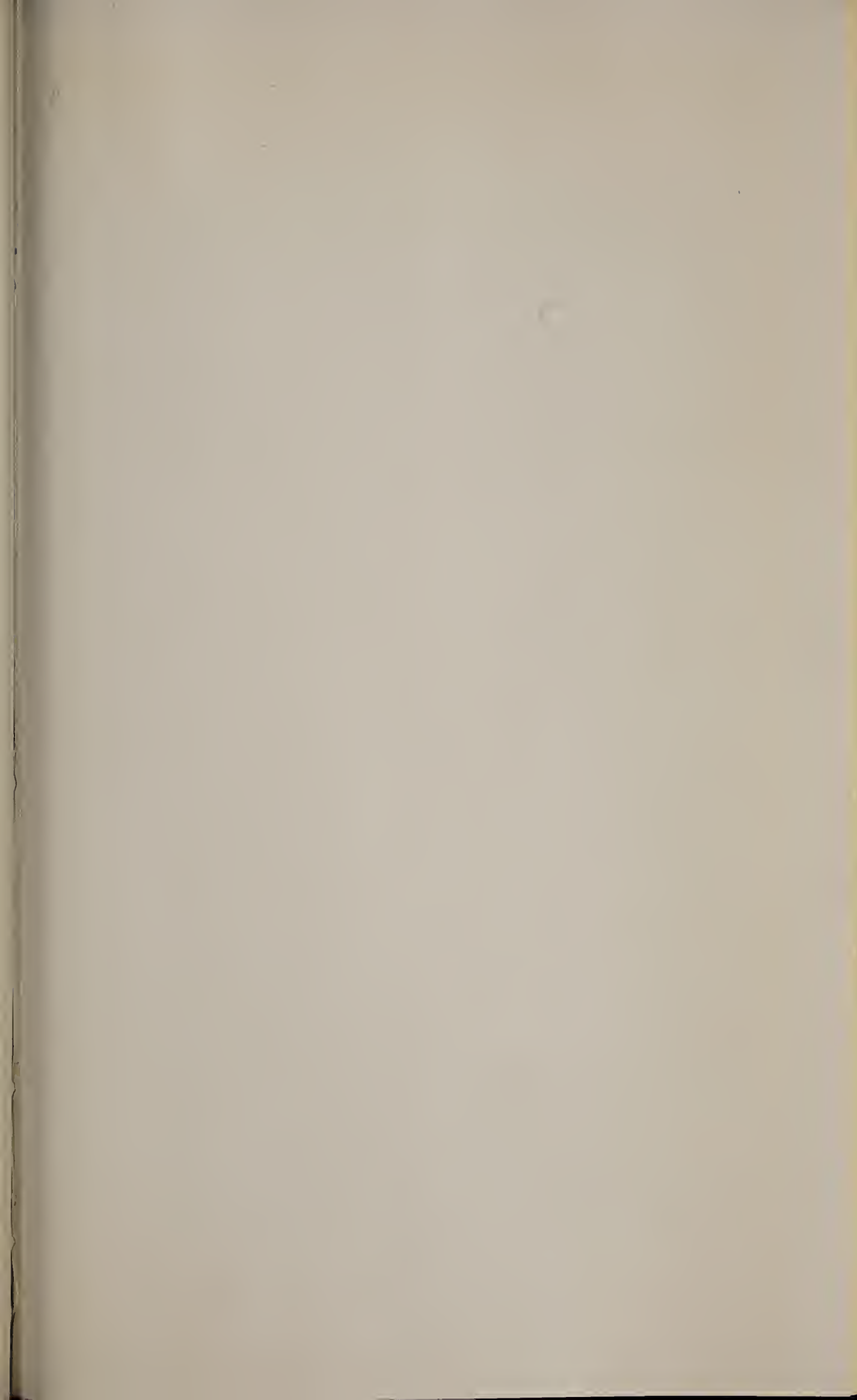
### The West End

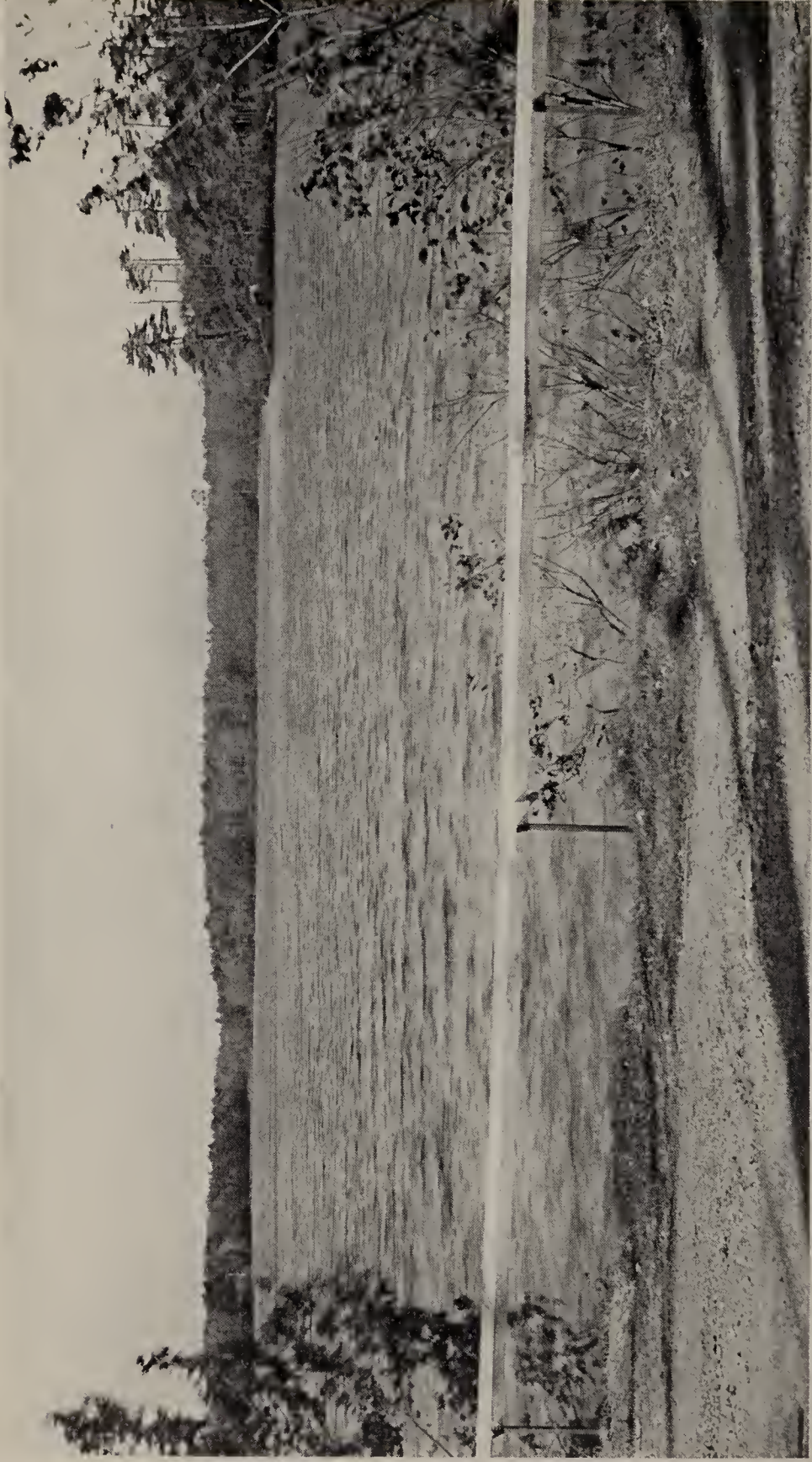
Just beyond the home of Mrs. William J. Leonard, an ancient Farrar homestead, is the real Ridge Hill, a narrow elevation, which is well described by its name. Before the widening of Route 3, it was called the S curve, at this point. The route is not too straight here at the present time.

Part of the section is now called Ridge Hill, part of it Accord. Here is Ridge Hill Grove, Memorial Hall and the most thickly settled portion of the entire town of Norwell. The principal streets are High, Washington, Grove, Oak and Pond Street. Grove Street, even now referred to as the "Valley Swamp road," had, until very recent years, no house at all. There are many homes along this street now, built by owners and occupants. It is a section where self-reliance and industry govern the daily life of the residents.

There were several shoe shops here thirty years ago. The largest, the C. W. Grose shop was burned in 1901. The Charles C. Young shop, near the Ridge Hill House was taken down in 1905 and moved to Norwell Center where it is now the blacksmith shop of Robert W. MacDonald. The Webster Cushing shop was remodelled and made the present Memorial Hall. The first Grand Army hall of the town which had but a brief existence (less than six years) was made from the Prouty-Thomas shop. This was moved to High Street and made into a house.

The junction of Washington and Grove Street is still known to some people as the Half-Way House corner, in remembrance of the days when the ancient Half-Way house stood here. This building run by Peter Kimball, Michael Cushing and others was called half-way between Boston and Plymouth in the days of the old stage coach





JACOB'S POND, ASSINIPPI  
One of the beauty spots of Norwell. The Norwell-Hanover line lies near the foreground of the picture.  
(*Photograph by Jared Gardner*)



## ASSINIPPI AND WEST END

lines. It burned, more than 50 years ago, on July 12, 1885, and the old stable, another landmark, was destroyed by prankish youths on July 3, 1907. A small store on the property, run for years by Oscar Lambert, was burned on July 3, 1917. Ramsey's store now occupies the site.

The only electric car line ever to enter the town ran, from 1896 to 1920, through High and Washington Street and brought new life and stimulation to the entire section. It was a through line to Nantasket and the sight of cars running in relays of three or more was a familiar holiday and week-end spectacle for years. The automobile came, first as a novelty, then as a possession of nearly every householder, and the old road vanished.

An interesting section, with a most descriptive name, is the "Prairie" out at the Hanover end of High Street. Here the land is quite fertile and the level stretches make the estates of greater extent than in most sections of the town. Familiar family names here, (in Ridge Hill and Accord,) are: Prouty, Jones, French, Willcutt, Vining, Thomas, Robinson, Wilder, Farrar, Scully, Stoddard, Sheehan, Bowker, Studley, Grose, Gardner, Penniman, Young and Brewster. There are many descendants of the older families still residing here and some of the forgotten history of the section should, in some manner, be recorded and preserved for future generations.





## CHAPTER XXXII

### SOUTH SCITUATE SHIPYARDS

THE first point on the river where ships were built, strictly within the limits of what is today the Town of Norwell was probably at the town landing at Union Bridge. This was not a regular yard, but some small vessels were built here in early days and a number of gundalows were built and repaired.

Across the river in Marshfield, just a little way up, the Tildens and Oakmans were building as late as 1840.

The Block House yard, nearly a half mile above the bridge where the river makes a sharp bend, at the beginning of "Rocky Reach," was a building place for the James and Tildens from early times. In later days just previous to the division of the town, William James, David Torrey, Jotham and Luther Tilden did a great deal of building here. Rev. William P. Tilden, writing of the yard fifty years ago, said it was not a good one to work in as it was swampy and there was not much room for the lumber required to build a vessel. The old roadway down past the site of the old block house and farm where he himself lived for a few years, when a boy, was rough and difficult.

The tablet which marks this yard states that: "1707 to 1834 more than 51 vessels of 20 to 301 tons were built here."

About eight hundred feet up river an indentation in the bank, timbers still sunk in the river bed and the remains of an old saw pit, back on the upland, indicate that vessels were built and launched here. By whom is not known. It may have been used in connection with the "Block House" yard.

## SOUTH SCITUATE SHIPYARDS

Nearly three quarters of a mile beyond the Block House yard, at the mouth of the Second Herring Brook, is the yard usually known as the "Chittenden" yard. In this yard Job Randall, the Chittendens, Proutys, Torreys, Stetsons, Cudworths and Merritts have built. The vessels built here were comparatively small, and its chief distinction seems to be that vessels were built here later than at the other yards, three being built after 1860. The last, being launched in 1871, was built by Joseph Merritt.

The tablet marking this yard reads: "1690 to 1871, more than 71 vessels of 20 to 301 tons."

A little way above is the site of the "Old Wanton" yard, where the Wantons and Curtis' in very early times, and later the Delanos, Fosters, Cudworths, Southers and Clapps built. The two largest vessels ever built on the river the "Mount Vernon 464 tons and "Lady Madison, 450 tons, were built by the Delanos, and Elisha Foster's sons with Walter Foster as master builder, launched a number of vessels, one of which was the "Globe" which was the scene of a mutiny in which the captain and mates were brutally murdered and the ringleaders and many others lost their lives, either fighting among themselves or at the hands of the natives of a lonely island in the Pacific to which they had taken the vessel. Cummings Litchfield later built at this yard.

This tablet states: "1670 to 1840 more than 107 vessels of 20 to 464 tons."

For a long distance beyond the Wanton yard there was no yard on the Norwell side of the river as in most places the meadows extended quite a distance from the upland. Vessels were built at "Gravelly Beach" on the Marshfield side.

Next is the Palmer and Church yard, later the Ford and Copeland yard, now referred to as the "Fox Hill or Sunset Hill" yard.

Elias Pratt and Elisha Tolman built here in later times

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

and Elijah Barstow and Thomas Waterman, who built the last vessel at this yard, the Lizzie J. Bigelow in 1868.

This is the last yard within the bounds of Norwell.

The tablet describing this yard reads: 1690 to 1868 more than 56 vessels 20 to 350 tons.”

To visit any of the old yards one could with difficulty picture the activities of a hundred years ago, in the quiet and peace that now surround them.



## CHAPTER XXXIII

### SCHOONER HELEN M. FOSTER

**F**ROM the very beginning it was the custom of the settlers here in the shore towns of Massachusetts Bay and even those quite a ways inland to go cod and mackerel fishing in the bay, on George's Banks, the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and Bay of Chaleur.

While many followed the sea as a regular means of livelihood, in the China and East India trade, there were countless small fishing vessels of from twenty to sixty-five tons that made fishing trips in the summer, and in the fall going to Virginia or Carolina for corn or to the West Indies with fish and potatoes, bringing back molasses and sugar.

There were very few families in these towns in which some member and in many instances all of the male members, after haying, which was an important farm chore in those days, did not make a trip fishing. It was a sort of vacation eagerly looked forward to, and if the trip was successful, and the salt was "all wet" it made a very paying vacation as well.

The vessels were usually owned by several persons, the skipper owning a few shares and some of his neighbors or local merchants the rest. At the end of the trip there was a division of profits, if any profit was made, the vessel taking a certain percent, the skipper and crew the balance. The era which ended at the time of the Civil War witnessed the height of the fishing industry and fleets fitted out at Hingham, Cohasset and Scituate and the yards on the North River, where many of the vessels were built, were very busy.

In 1870 Ephraim Snow of Cohasset, needing a vessel,



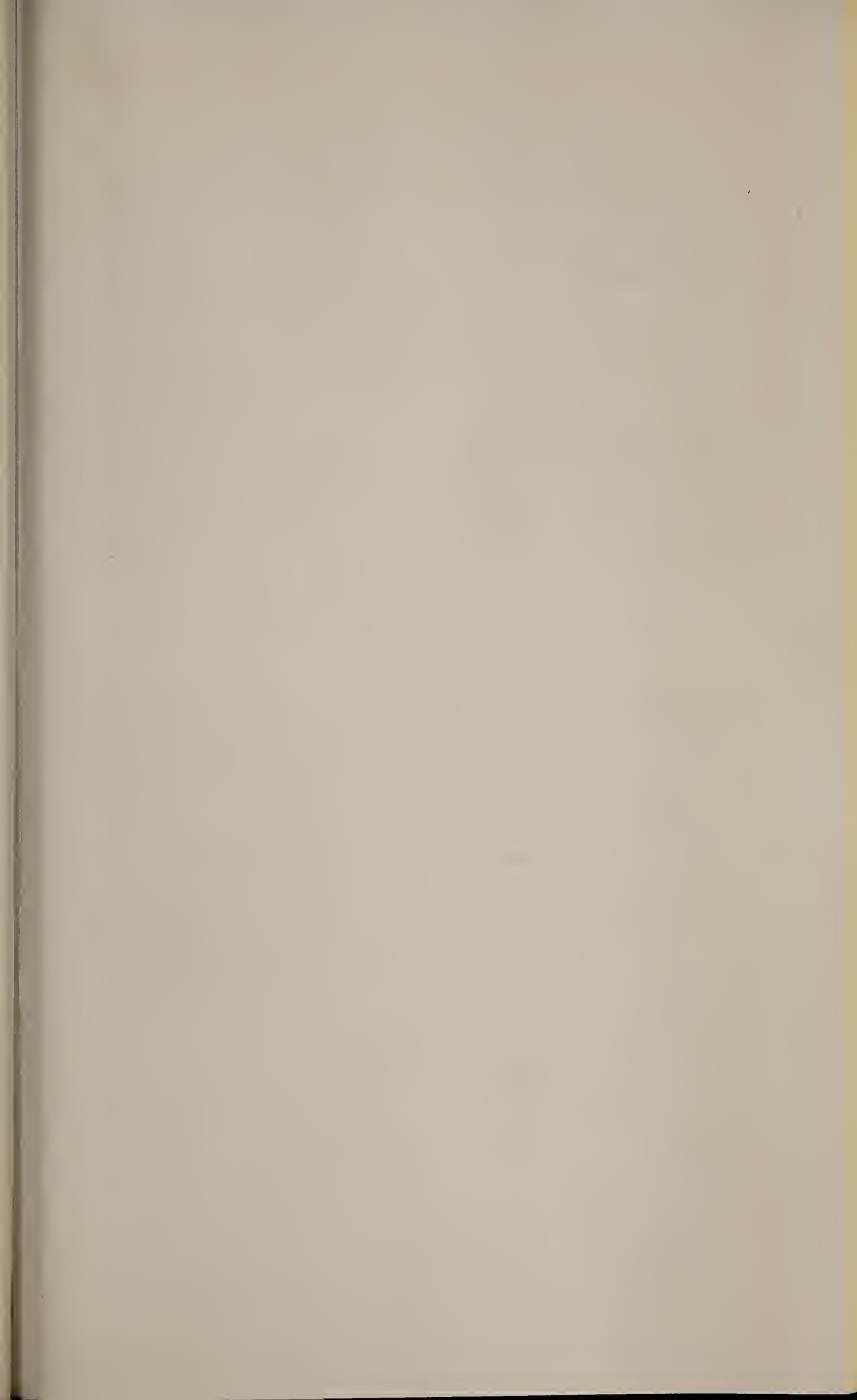
## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

came to Joseph Merritt of South Scituate, who had already built two vessels at the 'Chittenden' yard on the North River, and made his wants known. Mr. Merritt had been identified with both the fishing and building industry all his life. His first fishing trip was made at the age of twelve years when he went as cook with his father. In those days there were no galley stoves, all the cooking being done with the old fashioned fire places. He was so small that he could not swing the large iron kettle, one of the men having to hang it for him. Later he was in the blacksmith business and ironed vessels at the North River and at South Boston. He also made a specialty of getting out ship timber and helped supply many of the yards along the river.

A company was formed, the shareholders being the following: Edwin Jacobs of the Assinippi section of South Scituate, Elnathan Cushing, a ship carpenter of South Scituate, Joseph Merritt and Seth Foster also of South Scituate, Horace Dodd of Boston, Albert Whiting and Atkinson Nye of Hingham, Charles Jacobs of Hanover and Ephraim Snow of Cohasset.

At this time, first class ship carpenters could be had in plenty. Men who had worked in the "River" yards and later at the Charlestown Navy yard during the war.

The keel was laid in the fall of 1870 and work was carried through the winter and spring. Receipts in the possession of the writer show that the following men were among those who worked on the vessel: From South Scituate there were Elnathan Cushing, Joseph S. Clapp, Matthew Stetson, Waters B. Barker, George O. Torrey, David W. Studley, Andrew S. Greene, Joshua Stetson and Benjamin Nichols. The Scituate men were Andrew Cole, George W. Whitcomb, Moses L. Brown, calker, Nathaniel Wade, Harvey Litchfield, Marsena W. Damon, Frederick Cushing. Joseph Cudworth, then living in Charlestown built the pumps and Thomas R. Lawrence of South Scituate did the painting. Ship timber and supplies were purchased from Barstow and Waterman of East Boston,





LAST OF SOUTH SCITUATE SHIPS  
Schooner Helen M. Foster, ready to slide into the North River  
at Chittenden Landing, June, 1871.  
(Cut loaned by Chief Justice Cushing Chapter D. A. R.)



THE MAY ELMS  
where Rev. Samuel J. May, pastor of First Church 1836-1842 lived. The  
fine trees were planted by Mr. May. Photo by Col. Charles W. Furlong  
(Cut copyrighted, and loaned by Scituate Historical Society)



## SCHOONER HELEN M. FOSTER

Hiram Gardner of Hanover, Galen and Charles Latham, Samuel C. Cudworth, Samuel Church, Edgar Tilden and others.

The launching early in June 1871 was quite an event. It had been some time since there was a launching at any local yard and people came from quite a distance to witness it. As the vessel slid into the water she was christened Helen M. Foster after the sister of one of the owners, and the wife of Mr. Merritt, the builder.

The photograph taken by James H. Williams, a pioneer photographer of South Scituate and Nantasket, was an excellent picture of the launching and copies are still in possession of some of the older families. It shows a number of people on board and also lined up alongside in the yard, many of whom can be recognized by people now living.

In taking the vessel out of the river and up to Boston, Capt. Charles L. Tilden of East Marshfield, an old river packet captain, staked the channel and furnished these men: William S. Porter, Alvin Porter, P. S. Sherman, L. L. Harrington.

The old mouth of the river which was about a mile below the "Ferry" or Humarock was badly choked by a bar which had formed and some difficulty was encountered in crossing, the boat having to be keeled over on her side so as not to draw too much water. It evidently took five days to get her down the river and over the bar as there is a receipt which reads:

"South Scituate, June 10, 1871. For going down river on board the Helen M. Foster, five days work. The amount \$11.25. Daniel R. Ewell."

People to this day remember Dan's story of going down river and George O. Torrey's stories of the ship yards.

After being rigged and outfitted at East Boston she made several trips for her owners, but was not a financial success and in 1879 she was sold. For some years she was in the coasting trade and was owned in Maine being often



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

seen by people from this vicinity, but she has now dropped entirely out of sight.

Whether she foundered at sea, was broken up or her name changed, cannot be learned.

This is the story of the Helen M. Foster, 65 tons, the last vessel built and launched on North River.

The old yards are all deserted and were they not marked by tablets, there are very few people living who could locate them. No more do the old ox carts creak and groan with heavy loads of ship timber, along the narrow ways leading to the river. No more are the shouts of the teamsters and the sound of the axes heard on the frosty mornings. The generations that built there have all passed on and nothing now remains of those stirring times but a memory.



## CHAPTER XXXIV

# AGRICULTURE, POULTRY FARMS

### Agriculture

**W**ITHIN the past twenty years the situation in regard to agriculture has entirely changed. In the earlier days the town would have been classed as a farming community. Then, every little place was used by its occupants to raise crops to help support the family. Most people kept a horse, one or two cows, a pig and poultry. Whatever occupation or trade the householder had, outside of this, the family lived almost entirely on what was raised on his place. Most everybody owned a wood lot where the winter's supply of fuel was cut. Scattered over the town were large farms of fifty acres or more. Today the majority of these have been cut up into smaller holdings and house lots. There are very few real farms left. The hay fields have run out and new owners usually consider them more desirable if grown up to brush or woods.

Among the few real farms still used as such are those of Harry G. Pinson, Henry C. Ford, Gustaf Peterson, Arthur L. Power, Charles Georgetti, The "Homestead" farm of the Davises, The Burns Bros., William D. Jacobs, Benjamin Loring, Andrew Maxwell, George Cavanagh, and Bertram Joseph. The green house business of Charles A. Berry, one of the largest in this section has been discontinued and the outlying fields rented. James Sampson, Cushing Hatch, George H. Turner, Henry A. Turner, James Green, Edward Sexton, C. A. Litchfield, John Whalen, Joseph Hatch and Frank Hammond, farmers of former days, have passed on.

Since about 1880 poultry farming has been carried on

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

quite extensively. In those days William H. Rudd and Sons, originated the "Orocco" strain of Barred Plymouth Rocks and did a large business for many years. Curtis Bros., The Farrars, Carlton Richardson, Henry D. Smith, Francis Henderson, William Henderson, Wallace Damon, William D. Jacobs, the Halls, William O. Prouty, Jesse Reed and Frederick Morey are among those who have been in the business. Clarence Lewis is conducting an extensive plant on South Street. During the last few seasons turkey raising has been carried on to a considerable extent in Mt. Blue and Assinippi.

By far the largest establishment in town or in this section of the state is that of Joseph Tolman of River Street. He raises day old chicks for the market and ships many thousands of them annually, all over the country. For a number of years he has advocated the open front house and is considered the originator and chief exponent of that type of house in this country. He has had wonderful success with it and his mammoth establishment of a hundred and thirty acres, devoted exclusively to the business is visited by hundreds of interested people each year. There were over twenty-five thousand fowl of the age of six months and over assessed in the town the past year. There is no record of the thousands of young birds marketed.

Walter R. Hall and William D. Jacobs have two very large establishments on Washington Street. Louis Osberg has built up a poultry business at Church Hill.



## CHAPTER XXXV

### SWAMP LANDS

**I**N the allotment of lands to the first settlers much attention was given to the swamp lands. These were laid out in portions of from two to seven acres, the last of them being distributed to the freemen in 1673, they being required to clear them, to break up the dens of wolves and also prevent the miring of cattle.

Some people own land on which they pay taxes that they do not see from one year's end to another, and in many cases do not know where it is located.

It used to be the custom for the older inhabitants, who owned outlying swamp and wood lands that were not fenced, to once a year go over their bounds and see if their marking stakes were in position and renew those that were removed or rotted down. That generation has all gone and the old deeds and few torn and faded plans still in existence are all that there is to help in running down the bounds of these lots.

The reason that these swamp lands were considered so valuable by the early settlers was the excellent growth both of white cedar and of pine, which they bore. Cedar was used very extensively up to the present time for shingles for all building purposes and until the advent of the wire fence, great quantities were required for post and rail fences.

The swamp pines were much straighter, freer from knots, and better suited for building purposes than those that grew on the uplands.

There were also in early times quite a number of spruce swamps scattered throughout the town. There is almost no spruce here at present.



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

### Dead Swamp

Between Central, Winter Street and Mill Lane is a large tract of land that has always been known as "Dead Swamp." This was formed by a colony of beavers. These busy animals long ago dammed the Second Herring Brook at this place, and overflowed the surrounding lowlands, not very deep, but covering quite a large territory. Long afterwards there was a dam built on the site of this beaver dam to furnish power for a mill. This was about 1801. The Turners, Elijah and Lemuel were, we believe, the builders.

Since that time until about fifteen years ago there has always been a mill on this location.

The swamp with its water, brush, snakes and tangles has always been a gruesome place.

It is chiefly known for the wonderful blueberries which grow there. In the month of August for more than a century, people who cared to brave the discomforts of the swamp have taken quantities of these berries from the overloaded bushes. It has always been a nesting place for wild ducks and other game birds.

Many years ago there used to be a charcoal pit on the side hill back of the swamp, where charcoal was burned for the local blacksmiths, before the use of soft coal, or Cumberland coal as it was called, became the custom. It is a tradition that "Black Bill," an old negro, had a camp here in shipbuilding days and worked on one of his vessels with which he hoped to sail south and free the slaves. It was said that he built them anywhere in the woods and when he had them partially completed would tear them to pieces and build another somewhere else.

### Old Pond Swamp

This is that portion of low land once flooded by Cornet Stetson's mill dam. It is between Tiffany Road, Pine, Green and Pleasant Streets. This is quite a large tract of land and there were many owners of small lots some of which it would be difficult to locate today.

## SWAMP LANDS

### **Hoop Pole Swamp**

Located between Main, Lincoln and Grove Streets. It has been known by this name since early times.

### **Burnt Plain Swamp**

Off Bowker Street, extending to Grove Street.

### **Halifax Swamp**

The Walling map, 1857, lists a tract of land near Halifax-Otis hill, as Halifax Swamp.

### **Valley Swamp**

At the westerly end of Grove Street. There were many small lay outs by the committee in this swamp and an old vote on record in Scituate requesting the owners to have their layouts recorded.

### **George Moore's Swamp**

Off Cross and Winter Streets and extending to Old Oaken Bucket Road in Scituate. The larger part is in Scituate. Much of this is now cranberry bog. The swamp was so called for an early settler here and is a contraction of the name George Moore.

### **Black Pond Swamp**

Off Mt. Blue Street, around Black Pond and extending nearly to Summer Street. On the edge of this swamp was once located the farm of Joseph Clapp who about 1756 had charge of several Acadian refugees who were billeted with him for a time. Cuff Grandison, an old negro, was located here in Revolutionary days and died here.

## CHAPTER XXXVI

### STATE POLICE PATROL

**D**URING the year 1919, the evil of poultry stealing having become a serious matter in this district and those who were engaged in the industry locally being in constant danger of a heavy loss, different people, including Louis H. Ogden of Assinippi, asked that the new undertaking of policing the state be represented in Norwell. A station was opened under charge of Corporal Brown, its headquarters being in the Arts & Crafts building, now the post office building.

In a short time the force was increased to five men and citizens felt that a strong arm of protection was at hand. Succeeding corporals have been Lyman D. Preston, Hector J. Pelletier, William Martin, Joseph Fratus, John T. Horgan, George D. Rapport, Norman S. Sidney and the present incumbent, Corporal Harry C. Smith.

The permanence of Norwell Center as the headquarters of D Troop, Station 1, Massachusetts State Patrol, has been made possible through the co-operation of town officials and the public. The use of the old "pound" lot at the corner of Main and Central Streets was granted by the selectmen, a well was dug by volunteer labor and the temporary building which housed the troop stood there from 1923 to 1935. Then the state, while building six large, modern sub-stations, constructed one of them in Norwell, the present large structure at the head of West Street. A move to place the station on the state road, in North Pembroke was strongly supported in some quarters, but Norwell officials, strongly aided by Representative Ernest H. Sparrell, succeeded in having the new station built here.

## CHAPTER XXXVII

# THE SOUTH SCITUATE BRASS BAND

SOON after the close of the war between the states, the returned soldiers formed Grand Army Posts and, as they had become accustomed to martial music in the army, it is quite natural that their interest in such music should be quickened and coincidentally that military bands should be formed to meet the needs of the new posts and the patriotism of the people generally. In this immediate section there were the East Marshfield, North Scituate,, Hanover and South Scituate Brass Bands. Evening concerts were given and the bands turned out with the posts on Memorial Day, and altogether they were a great benefit to the communities where they were located. They helped to enliven a people wearied with four long years of war and the consequent suffering and losses which war brings.

The South Scituate Brass Band was organized in 1874 with David H. Stoddard of Bryant's Corner as leader. The Stoddard family were well represented, as Mr. Stoddard's father, David H. Stoddard, his brothers Alonzo and Charles, and a younger brother Wallace were members. Mr. Stoddard was for many years in business at North Hanover. The list of members and the instruments they played were, so far as we can learn; Cornets, D. H. Stoddard, Thaddeus A. Lawrence, Everett Litchfield, Charles Stoddard of South Scituate, Harvey McLauthlin and Charles Turner of Hanover, Joseph W. Morris and Russell Walker of Scituate; trombones, Seth O. Fitts and David H. Stoddard; bass, Walter H. Briggs and Benjamin Briggs; baritone, George W. Robbins; cymbals,



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Frederick Sylvester and Jeremiah H. Lehan; piccolo, Alonzo Stoddard; snare drum, Wallace Stoddard; bass drum, Amos Vinal and Alonzo Thomas. Thomas Leslie, Edward R. Turner and Edwin B. Torrey occasionally played with the band as substitute members.

The meetings were held in the town hall until it was burned in 1884 and after that in a small hall over the Ebenezer T. Fogg store. Later on in the new hall. There was a band stand on the triangle, just above the common where the tablet to the World War Veterans and the flag pole now stand. This was later moved further south to the triangle in front of the James Library. During the summer months concerts and practice were held out of doors.

For some years Mr. W. H. Ripley of Boston was the instructor.

After the organization disbanded Walter H. Briggs and others associated themselves with and continued to play with bands in larger towns.

The only members now living are Charles Stoddard of North Scituate, Russell Walker of Greenbush, Edwin R. Turner of North Abington and Wallace Stoddard of Georgia.

It is a well known fact that history repeats itself. A new band has recently been organized in town by Alfred L. Howes of Assinippi. This has come to be known as the Norwell Legion Band and during the past two summers concerts have been held regularly on the village common where their predecessors of fifty years ago entertained the people with the music of that generation, and now, added to "Marching Through Georgia" and other patriotic tunes which inspired the men and women of those days, their grandchildren listen to "A Hot Time in The Old Town" and other tunes of Spanish war times and "Over There," and many famous tunes of the World War.

## CHAPTER XXXVIII

### NATURAL SCENERY

**A** RIDE through Norwell, with a leisured and appreciative tarry in out of the way nooks and along the back roads, is very much worth while. Some of the streets are not tarred and their suitability for use as bridle trails, is much appreciated by those who enjoy this healthful pastime. Forest Street, Circuit Street, Bowker Street, and parts of Mount Blue Street are especially appealing in this way.

There are three or four most outstanding bits of scenery which would attract any tourist or nature lover and are located some distance from each other. Let us recall three or four, so well known and greatly appreciated by many of us.

One may travel all over New England and scarcely find a more beautiful sample of the typical Colonial farmstead than the Jacobs Farm beside Assinippi Pond. Here are original orchard trees, miles of pioneer-laid stone walls and a quiet, beautiful setting which almost defies description. This is an un-spoiled gem of rural charm and scenic loveliness, which will remain, it is sincerely hoped, for many, many years.

Another landscape etching is the view from Delano Hill on River street, at the entrance to the Church Hill section of the town. One looks across the pasture land of the Gutterson and Whiting property to the myriad colored woodlands of the Marshfield shore and highland, sees the changing tints of the meadow grass and river line, gets a distant view of the Scituate hills over the Hastings farm, and witnesses a sight which many people come again and again to see. "I always stop the car

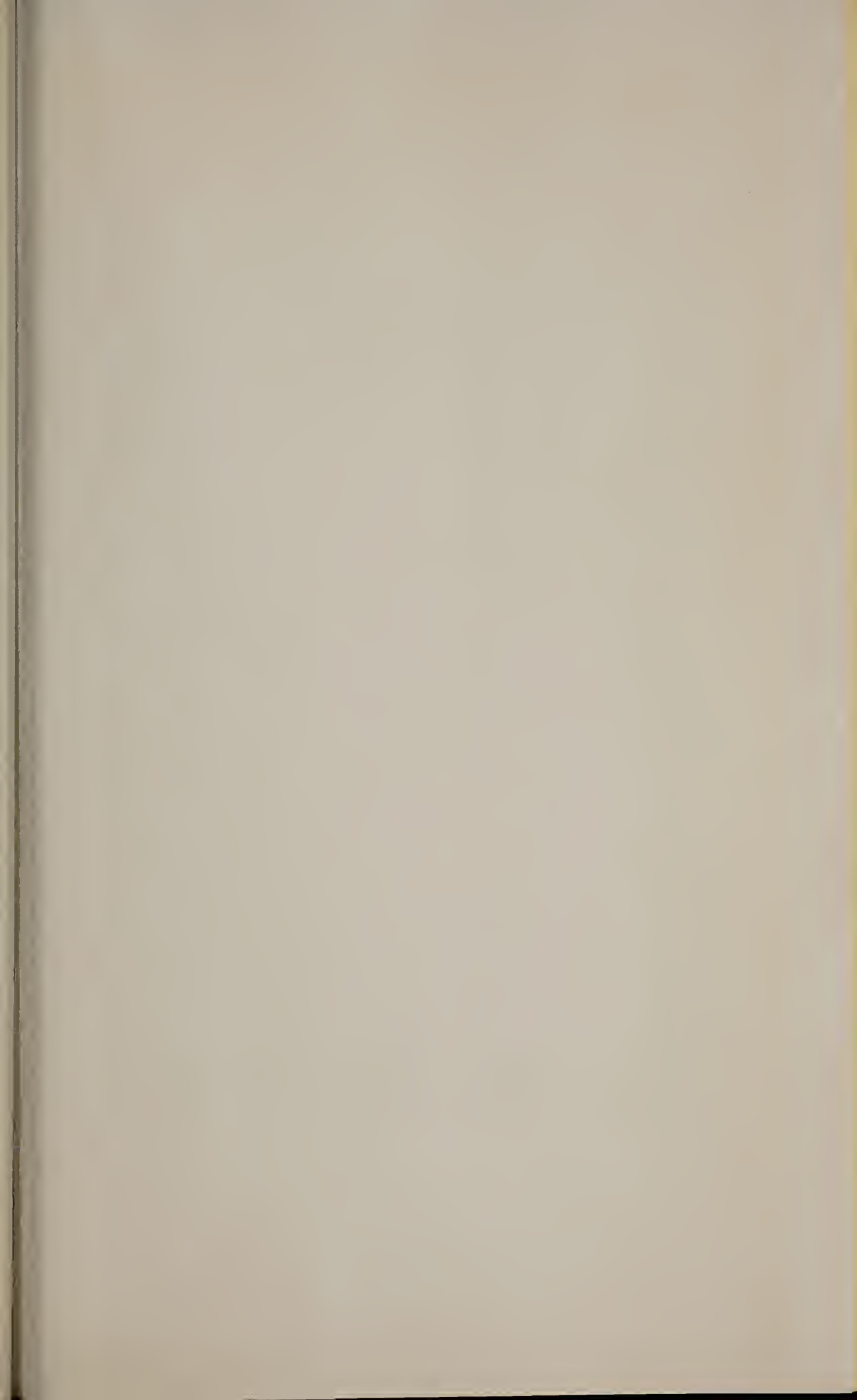
## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

here," said an appreciative stranger, and many others do the same thing. Across the street is the old Delano mansion, in its quaint beauty. Will Irwin said of this, in 1936: "A ship-builder's house,—'the lady house,' my women call it; for its restrainedly ornate exterior conveys all the charm of that era in Scituate." This was the home of William H. Delano, the builder, and the birthplace of his children. He built the largest vessels ever constructed on the river and his sons became noted naval constructors in the United States service.

The view at Union Bridge with the sweep of the river, is one which needs no praise. A half mile up from the bridge is perhaps, the finest scene on the entire river in this town, and is reached by a lane from Main Street. This is the residence spot of Mr. and Mrs. Harry P. Henderson. Said a contemporary article: "A most beautiful spot, one by which I am always impressed, is that of the North River from a very scenic spot, near the famous Blockhouse yard in Norwell. My errand had no reference to time or setting. What was my surprise to have my ready questions almost die upon my lips, as the 'high sea' of the Old Farmer's Almanac swept up that glorious curve. It just cannot be described, that sight. There are near views and entrancing distant views of the stream which divides Scituate and Marshfield, Norwell and Marshfield-Pembroke, but they are all merged in a splendid panoramic spectacle down here at the ancient site of the James and Tilden families."

On high ground, off Stetson Road, Church Hill, on property of Mrs. Daisy Kendall, there is a little known view of the upper river, and the Pembroke hills and dales. Hundreds of acres of the river marshes provide indescribable tints from the sedges and wild rice. In the foreground is Till Rock, boulder of mystery, and to the left on the highest part of the ridge, is the marker of the geodetic survey fixing the point of highest land in this vicinity.

Studley Hill, between River Street and Pine Street







NORTH RIVER SCENE, MOTOR BOATING ABOVE UNION BRIDGE

## NATURAL SCENERY

has wonderful views from its summit, one of the very highest elevations in town. Joseph Tolman, its present owner, is clearing away the trees and opening the view.

Mount Blue, little known and rather derided summit, is a true drumlin or glacial hill. To reach it one must ascend from the old Stockbridge cemetery, near the junction of School and Mount Blue Street, or seek permission of the family of Carlton Litchfield to enter their farm. The view well repays one with its great sweep to the south and glimpses of ocean, forest and busy towns to the north-west. A drive down Cross Street, intrigues with unusual forest features, and a splendid vista near the home of Francis H. Lincoln. Mount Hope is interesting as a twin summit with Mt. Blue, very near the Hingham border, but the forest growth cuts off any good view from its crest. The river intervale views at Chittenden Landing and at the Bailey farm are delightful. A serpentine bend of the stream, visible only from near the home of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Blake, is perhaps the most beautiful of all.

About a mile from Norwell Center, near the charming spot known as "The Partridge Nest," on Circuit Street and also on property of Harry B. Merritt, a charming view of the ocean is obtained. The old maps call this Cordwood Hill.

A lovely vista, seen from the short highway of Pond Street, Queen Anne's Corner, has its making in the historic sheet of water where commissioners of the colonies met back in the 17th century, and settled a vexing boundary question for all time. Out of their deliberations and successful judgment came the modern name of the district, Accord, from its lake, Accord Pond, part of which lies in the town of Norwell.

## APPENDIX A

### A list of books and other publications pertaining to the history of South Scituate-Norwell, Massachusetts:

History of Scituate, Mass., from its first settlement to 1831, by Samuel Deane. Boston, James Loring, 132 Washington Street, 1831. 420 pages.

Reprint of History of Scituate, (exact reproduction) by Bates & Vinal, North Scituate, Mass., 1899.

History of Plymouth County, Massachusetts, Scituate and South Scituate historical article by Daniel E. Damon, Esq.

History of Shipbuilding on North River, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, 1640-1872, by L. Vernon Briggs, Boston; Coburn Brothers, Printers, 114 Washington Street, Boston, 1889. 420 Pages.

Historia, a little magazine of local history. Published in Norwell, Nov. 1898 - Oct. 1899, by George C. Turner.

Old Scituate—Published by Chief Justice Cushing Chapter, D. A. R. 292 pages.

Old Time Anecdotes of the North River and South Shore, by Joseph Foster Merritt, Rockland Standard Publishing Company, Rockland, 1928. 110 pages.

Early Planters of Scituate, by Harvey H. Pratt, Esq., Published by the Scituate Historical Society, 1929. 386 pages.

Scituate, 1636-1936, Published by Scituate Historical Society, 1936.

Autobiography, "printed, not published," 1891. William Phillips Tilden. Edited by his children. 266 pages.

Norwell's Town Halls, illustrated pamphlet, published by the Norwell Historical Society, 1936.

Forgotten Families of Valley Swamp. Pamphlet No. 2 published by the Norwell Historical Society, 1937, by George C. Turner.



## APPENDIX B

At the 275th anniversary of the founding of the South Parish Church, Scituate, which became the First Parish Church, Norwell, and on the occasion, August 19, 1917, known as the "Boulder" celebration, David W. Tinsley, at that time Chief of Police of the City of Fitchburg, Mass., spoke as follows:

The subscriber is called upon to speak of his remembrance of that remarkable woman and member of this Parish, Emily James.

Nearly sixty years ago, as a little boy of less than ten years of age, I was welcomed to her home by the noble woman of whom I am requested to speak. As though it were but yesterday, I recall the graciousness and tact with which she overcame my timidity and homesickness. Under her kind supervision, I soon became a contented, and I trust, a useful member of her household, and continued as such for nine of the happiest years of my life. Splendidly endowed by nature and with the advantages of such institutions of learning as the period afforded, she became a most efficient educator in the then famed schools of Cambridge, Mass., where she remained for many years, loved by all who knew her, retiring from the service and her beloved surroundings to become the comfort and support of her fast aging father and mother. My entrance into the home was soon after Miss James had made this great sacrifice, for such it surely was. Though young, I was much impressed with the fact, which impression has grown stronger with the advancing years, as she had for many years, enjoyed the acquaintance of men and women who were making history and convincing the Old World and the New that America was to be reckoned with as producing poets, artists, writers, orators, scientists, and educators whose talents the people of this entire world, then and ever since have loved and respected.



## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Among that wonderful assemblage whose friendship was the delight of Emily James, were such names as Longfellow, Whittier, Lowell, Agassiz, Livermore, Sumner, Hawthorne, Thoreau, James Freeman Clarke, Louisa M. Alcott and the Alcott family, Margaret Fuller, and many others. From such an atmosphere, such surroundings, and her beloved school with its associations, came this splendid woman in the zenith of her years' usefulness, an example of self sacrifice seldom witnessed, to fulfill what she regarded as a sacred duty.

Often as we gathered around the fireside and listened to her description of her past life, there would creep in a feeling that her noble heart was yearning for more congenial fields. Most unselfishly she took up the work in her changed surroundings. Her father died soon after my entrance to the household. She then adapted herself to almost all the phases of farm work. Very little outside help was employed, as finances would not permit. Careful records were kept and each year showed a balance to the good, as a result of her skillful management.

She was a most lovable and entertaining employer. Always a student, she kept abreast with the times, and was an authority and cyclopedia for the populace for miles around.

She typified in an unusual and exalted way, because of her advantages and past associations, that splendid legion of women of whom the careless world takes too little heed; who have borne their burdens with a meekness and resignation that compels those who stop, think and observe, to murmur a silent prayer of thankfulness that such there were.

Grouped close to the great white throne, and receiving the utmost blessings that heaven may afford, we trust will be found that multitude of noble women who have passed to the great beyond, and who gave the best of their lives and remained single to care for those who needed their gentle ministrations.

## APPENDIX C

### DAYS OF 1856

From **THE UNION**, probably the first newspaper to be published or to have a branch office in South Scituate.

**THE UNION** was printed in Pembroke, and the copy from which the quotation below is made bears the date of April 12, 1856. The old sheet, breaking apart with age, is in the possession of Clarence S. Ellis, of West Hanover. We quote:

#### THE UNION

Published By William Young

SOUTH SCITUATE, APRIL 12, 1856

Population in 1855, 1, 816.

Terms of the Union

Union, one year, in advance .....	\$1.00
Union and Godey's Lady's Book, a \$3 monthly magazine, both one year .....	\$3.00
Union and Boston Journal, \$2, paper, 1 year .....	\$2.00
Union and Boston Traveller .....	\$2.00
Union and Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post, a \$2 paper, both one year .....	\$2.00

#### South Scituate Town Meetings

At the adjourned March meeting:—Voted: To allow the 10th highway district the balance of their undrawn money tax of the year 1854.

Voted: To reconsider the vote allowing 25c per hour for removing snow.

Voted: To allow 20c per hour for removing snow.

Chose Billings Litchfield, prudential committee in the 3rd school district, in place of Joshua B. Reed, declined.

## HISTORY OF SOUTH SCITUATE — NORWELL

Report of the selectmen, dividing the 1st highway district, accepted.

Voted: To transfer the surveyor of district No. 1 to the 22nd, or new district.

Chose Martin C. Glover surveyor of the 1st district.

Chose Harrison Wilder constable.

Chose Charles Mann, Walter Foster and Abiel Turner, additional field drivers.

The treasurer was appointed a committee to sell the fishing rights on North River.

Anson Robbins was appointed a committee to let the flats, the current year.

The selectmen were chosen a committee to settle with the treasurer.

Meeting dissolved.

At the April meeting, Alfred Litchfield, moderator, the selectmen were appointed agents to take possession of any town property now in the hands of private individuals, also to collect any outstanding debts of the town.

The selectmen were appointed a committee to prosecute persons for the illegal sale of spirituous liquors.

On the sixth clause in the warrant: "Will the town form an insurance company?" A committee of three was appointed to investigate the subject and report at a future meeting. The committee consists of Anson Robbins, Horatio N. Gardner and Elias W. Pratt.

The report of the school committee was read by Rev. Mr. Record, and five hundred copies ordered to be printed.

The selectmen were appointed a committee to procure a new hearse, and to dispose of the old one to the best advantage.

Voted: That Luther Howland and others be allowed to erect hay scales at the southerly end of Church Hill under the direction of the selectmen as to their location.

Meeting dissolved.

Jurors—In South Scituate, George K. Cushing has been

## APPENDIX

drawn for the grand jury, and Nathaniel Turner for the traverse jury.

### List of Jurors

Prepared by the selectmen and accepted by the town of South Scituate:

Luther C. Bailey, Elijah Barstow, Paul D. Briggs, George K. Cushing, Joseph S. Clapp, Nathaniel B. Clapp, James J. Farrar, Colman Ford, Philip Foster, Henry A. Groce, William Hatch, Benjamin Jacobs, Loring Jacobs, Pyam Jacobs, Alfred Litchfield, Liba Litchfield, William T. Lapham, Joseph Merritt, 2nd, Alfred Payne, Elias E. Pratt, James Southworth, David Stockbridge, Seth Thomas, Jr., George H. Torrey, Nathaniel Turner, William H. Tilden, Lemuel C. Waterman, Dexter M. Willcutt.

The front page of this old paper says that THE UNION is "printed for the benefit of the public and the profit of the publisher," and that it is "published simultaneously at Pembroke, Hanover and South Scituate, Massachusetts." The issue is Vol. 1, No. 15 and is addressed to 'Zaccheus Estes,' this subscriber having resided on the old farm on Plain Street, West Hanover, which also borders for a short distance on Hanover Street, the property now being owned by the Lot Phillips Co.

Advertisements are by Randall's Express, West Duxbury, Hanover and Boston; N. Ford & Sons, Duxbury; Bates & Co. Hanover Four Corners; J. B. Knapp, South Scituate; and E. Y. Perry & Co., Hanover.



## APPENDIX D

**Extracts from the Autobiography of Rev. William P. Tilden, a native of South Scituate, who rose to prominence as a pastor.**

He was born May 9, 1811, and died in Milton, Mass., on Oct. 3, 1890.

### Ancestry

“Having passed my 77th birthday anniversary, I have thought that it might be well, while enjoying a fair degree of memory and strength, to jot down some of the incidents of my long and somewhat varied life.”

“My father was a ship-carpenter, as were most of the men living near the North River.”

### My Childhood

“When I was born, May 9, 1811, father was living in a house, still standing and in good repair, about a mile and a half from the ship-yard where he carried on ship-building in company with his brother Jotham.”

“We lived about five miles from the sea-shore, and could hear the dull roar of the surf after a storm.”

(Note—This house, moved to the Berry farm, is now the upper part of the tenement house there, on the southerly side of Main Street.)

“Our nearest neighbor was Judge Nathan Cushing. He lived in a fine old mansion, close to our house. He was a distinguished man, a graduate of Harvard, a brave patriot in the Revolution; and in 1789 he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court.”

“When I was about six years old, father sold our snug little home, and built a new house on the North River.”

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(Note—The site of the Judge Nathan Cushing house is well defined, today, by the boulder, with tablet on the north curve of Route 123, Main Street, Norwell, where the bronze tablet tells of the Judge having been foremost in designing the State Seal of Massachusetts.)

### My Boyhood

“The site of our new house was at a bend of the river, just above Union Bridge, known from early days as the ‘Block House’, where there were a fort and garrison in Philip’s War.”

“My main work at first, before and after school, was to bring chips from the ship-yard for our open fires. We never had a stove, while I lived at home, in kitchen or sitting-room. Everything was cooked by a large open fire.”

### My Grandfather

“My grandfather, Deacon Samuel Tilden, lived in Marshfield, near Gravelly Beach, about a mile above the Block House. He was a direct descendant from Elder Nathaniel, and inherited land held in the family since 1640. The situation of the old house was beautiful, with hills on the east and the winding river and fertile meadows on the west.” (Note—This site is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Mills, at the end of Cornhill Avenue, North Marshfield.)

### Church Going

“My uncle Jotham, father’s partner in ship-building, lived just over the river, on a hill a quarter of a mile away. He had a family of four sons and two daughters.” (Note—This home of the Jotham Tilden’s is now the residence of Mrs. Edith Lincoln.)

“They attended church with us at Scituate. And it was a pretty sight to my young eyes, to see them winding along, in their best attire, down the hill to the river, on a Sunday morning, and across in the large flat-bottomed boat made for the occasion. Landing on our side, they would come up by our house, where we would join them,

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and all walk up through the pastures to the main road together, and then a third of a mile further, to the old church on the hill, the sweet-toned bell all the time calling, 'Come! Come! Come!'

"On the roadside the sweet fern grew in abundance. I used to pluck it and chew it, as the disciples did the ears of corn on the Sabbath day. Even now, whenever I taste, in the country, that fragrant shrub, I am carried back to those Sunday mornings when I plucked it on the way to church."

"In the church we had the old-fashioned square pews of the period, with high backs to shut off the draft, hiding the inmates from the view of all but the minister, who could look down from his lofty pulpit, and see if all his sheep and lambs were in their pens— We had no stove in church, even in coldest weather. Mother used to bring with her a little foot-stove, with hard-wood coals, taken from the home fireplace." (Note—This church stood opposite the present one, on a little elevation, known as the sand-hill.)

"Right under the pulpit there was a long, narrow pew, where the two deacons sat. They were literally under the droppings of the sanctuary. The communion table was a wide shelf, or leaf, hung on hinges to the front of this pew, being lifted only when the table was spread."

"Near the pulpit, on the right of the broad aisle, were a few long pews, with oak backs and seats, for such old men as were too poor to hire seats; and on the left-hand side the same provision was made for poor old women. There was a wide gallery on three sides of the church, where the seats were free; and above that in the farthest corner, a little box, a sort of crow's nest for the colored people, of whom there were several families in our part of the town."

### The Old Church

"The bell was rung on a floor high up in the tower, and from that floor there was a single square of glass away up close to the ceiling of the church, through which the



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sexton could look and see if the minister was in the pulpit."

"Then, with three strokes of the bell, all was silent, or supposed to be; for the people kept coming in for some time after the minister was ready to begin. The fashion was to stay round the church door, outside or inside, talking of national or neighborhood affairs, the vessels on the stocks, the condition of the crops, etc., till the minister was in his place."

"And it was not all irreverence. Sunday was the only day in the week they met, and the meeting-house the only place of rendezvous; and, as theology was never a subject of much contention in our parish, they talked on the subjects of the most pressing interest."

"The choir occupied seats right in front of the pulpit. Of course, we had no organ or melodeon. The time for such instruments in country churches had not yet come. But we had a bass viol and a double bass, a flute, a clarinet. For the rest, we depended upon human voices, and fine voices some of them were. My aunt, Lucy Brooks, sang very sweetly. And one man by the name of Oldham, who stuttered most distressingly in common conversation, had a splendid tenor voice, and sang like an angel."

### Mr. Deane's Singing

"Our minister, too, Rev. Samuel Deane, was a superb singer. On one of the Forefathers' celebrations at Plymouth, he was selected to sing "The Breaking Waves Dashed High." That he did it grandly, all who had heard him sing in his own church, will readily believe. He knew so much of music that he was independent of the choir, and would strike in, in unexpected places and sing round them, always in perfect harmony."

### The Old Bell

"A word more of the old bell that hung in the open belfry, with wheel and rope exposed to all weather. I hardly know why I loved that bell so well, for its tones were



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not all happy. It sometimes had a 'sweetly solemn sound,' especially on week-days. On Sunday it sent forth a joyous call to worship. — but, whenever we heard it on a week-day it startled us."

"It was the custom, in the early morning, after a death, to give the sad intelligence by the bell. It was the quickest and most fitting way."

### How They Came To Church

"In front of the old church, near the door, was a horse-block for those who rode to meeting horse-back on pillions behind their husbands. But most come in open wagons or walked. There were but few chaises in town. One second-hand barouche, I remember, created quite a sensation."

(Note—This was the old church to which reference is made on Page 66 of this volume. The structure was well remembered by the late Miss Eliza Nash.)

### Going With Fishing Fleet

"The summer I was thirteen was an eventful one for me. Mackerel fishing was at that time a great source of revenue. Scituate Harbor, Cohasset and Hingham each fitted out a large fleet. A favorite skipper, sober and kind, in whom mother had confidence, lived in our neighborhood. I wanted to go with him, and she consented. We sailed from Hingham in the schooner 'Beaver.' Hingham Cove was about eight or nine miles from our house, but we used to walk back and forth, carrying our bundles. We went over the mountain road, as it was called, and on its highest point there was a gigantic beech, where we used to rest in the shade. We called it the 'Half-way Tree'."

### The Old Grist Mill

"The old grist-mill was one of the institutions of my boyhood. It was a shackly old mill, with a small pond,

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dry a part of the year; but it did most of the grinding of corn and rye in our neighborhood. It was not far from father's, across lots." (Note—This was Deacon Thomas Cushing's mill, afterwards D. W. Turner & Son, then J. F. Merritt and Benjamin P. Foster.)

"I was frequently sent with a half-bushel on my back to get it ground. The rocks in the pond served as a guage to its capacity. If the 'bushel rock' was just in sight, the old miller could grind a bushel; and so on, down to the 'peck rock.' When that showed its brown head, only a peck could be ground."

### Tide Mill. Post Office

"Sometimes, in long droughts, we had to go to the harbor, four miles away, to get our grain ground at the tide-mill that never failed. In going to the harbor, we passed the post-office near the center of the town. It was kept at this time by a respectable old farmer, on the upper shelf of his kitchen closet, in a box about large enough to hold seven pounds of sugar. The mail came once a week, I think; and the letters were safely boxed till called for, when the postage must be paid."

"Neither envelopes nor stamps were known. Nothing was prepaid and the postage was high, depending upon the distance. Twenty-five cents was often paid for letters. Many curious and ingenious methods were adopted for folding letters so as to give space for the largest amount of writing, without a word showing on the outside. All this ingenuity lost its stimulus when the envelope came into use."

### A FAMOUS CAREER

(Quotations are from the autobiography of William Phillips Tilden, the book having been "printed, not published" in 1891. Mr. Tilden, one of the most distinguished of all the natives of South Scituate, was the son of Luther and Philenda (Brooks) Tilden. He made his way,

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as has been often said, from the "ship-yard to the pulpit." He filled many pastorates, including one on Church Green, Boston. His portrait hangs in the Unitarian Building, 25 Beacon Street, Boston. Of Mr. Tilden, Dr. A. A. Livermore, editor of a prominent religious journal, said: "He grew in power as he grew in age, and his last days were his best.")

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